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DPS busts alleged 'ice' trafficker

Labor, immigration top Torres' agenda in DC

jon_perez@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres had a busy schedule of meetings since arriving in Washington, D.C. to attend the National Governors Associa-

tion winter meeting, which ends Tuesday. He has already met with several officials from the White House, including with U.S. Vice President Mike Pence.

Torres met with Pence at the vice

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Gov. Ralph DLG Torres met with Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and her husband, Jeffrey Cook, prior to attending a luncheon meeting with U.S. Vice President Mike Pence at the vice president's residence.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

he Department of Public Safety's Drug Enforcement Task Force busted another Chinese man for allegedly trafficking a large amount of crystal methamphetamine, or "ice."

According to a DPS statement, task force officers arrested the Chinese individual in Garapan for alleged illegal possession of a controlled substance and drug trafficking. The arrest was the third in the second drug takedown operation last Friday, Feb. 22.

The man goes by the alias

See DPS on Page 4



Teri Tenorio leaves OAG; seeks to quash subpoena

>> Zona says ex-prosecutor should be held in contempt

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE ferdie delatorre@saipantribune.com Disclosing that she is no longer a government prosecutor, Teri C. Tenorio has urged the Superior Court to

quash the subpoena served on her in a case against a man facing charges of sexually assaulting a minor. Alternatively. Tenorio wants to be allowed to appear at the hearing via telephone

in case she is off-island.

In the government's motion to quash filed last Friday, Tenorio said she has absolutely no materials to

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NATION

The city of Simi Valley has reached a \$21 million settlement with a man wrongly imprisoned.

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GOT A NEWS TIP?



The residents of Okinawa have rejected a relocation plan for a U.S. military base

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LIFE & STYLE

The segregationera road-trip drama "Green Book" was crowned best picture at the Oscars.

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

All IT&E CNMI Stores will open at 10:00AM on Thursday, February 28, 2019. For assistance, please send us direct message on any of our social media pages, or contact our Customer Care Center at 682-4483



2 TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2019 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Local

United applies to fly to Haneda from 6 US airports

United Airlines recently filed an application with the U.S. Department of Transportation for a total of six daily nonstop flights to Tokyo Haneda Airport from six U.S. airports—the Newark Liberty International Airport, Chicago O'Hare International Airport, Washington Dulles International Airport, Los Angeles International Airport, Houston George Bush Intercontinental Airport, and Guam's A.B. Won Pat International Airport.

Pending completion of an aviation agreement between the U.S. and Japanese governments later this year, and slots awarded by DOT, the flights are expected to begin service by the summer of 2020.

Together, the flights from five U.S. mainland hub cities and Guam will connect Tokyo Haneda with 112 U.S. airports, representing approximately two thirds of U.S.-Tokyo demand, or more than three million annual Tokyo bookings. With United's proposed routes representing five of the six largest metropolitan areas in the U.S. mainland and a combined population of nearly 56

million, the new flights requested in this proceeding will provide consumers with more choices and more convenient options when selecting Tokyo Haneda for their travel plans.

"If awarded by the DOT, these new nonstop flights would expand United's bestin-class Japan route network to better meet demand from U.S. consumers and businesses," said United Airlines president Scott Kirby. "Tokyo is a hub of 21st century global commerce and innovation and one of the world's most popular tourist destinations. Today's filing demonstrates United's unparalleled commitment to helping more Americans travel between our nation and Japan's capital city. Our proposed flights to Tokyo Haneda will offer an unrivaled experience and maximize choice and convenience for our customers traveling between the United States and Tokyo for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 and beyond."

United's proposed daily flights from Newark/New York, Los Angeles and Guam would supplement the airline's

QUIPMENT

Sales, Rental, Parts and Service

existing daily flights between those hubs and Tokyo's Narita International Airport, while United would shift existing daily nonstop Chicago, Washington D.C. and Houston flights from Narita to Haneda.

United's application will also support American businesses and help grow the U.S. economy by offering direct flights from key business, government and cultural hubs where demand for flights to Haneda, the closest airport to central Tokyo, is the highest. With these new flights in place, United would provide Haneda service from:

- The largest market for travel demand between the U.S. mainland and Tokyo (Los Angeles);
- The two largest markets for travel demand between the East Coast and Tokyo (Newark/New York and Washington, D.C.);
- The two largest markets for travel demand between the central U.S. and Tokyo (Chicago and Houston); and
- Guam, a market with significant travel demand from a Japanese tourist base that is

critical to the island's tourism industry, economy and job market.

United's proposal would help realize the full potential of these new routes for U.S. consumers and businesses by expanding United's broadbased and end-to-end network between the United States and Japan. United's proposed flights to Haneda would allow U.S. consumers to make connections to 37 points in Japan via United's joint venture partner All Nippon Airways, strengthening United's existing comprehensive network when combined with nonstop or single-connection service from 112 U.S. airports.

United has proven its longterm commitment to Tokyo as a key gateway in Asia, serving Tokyo from 100 percent of its U.S. hubs. United also serves 31 markets in the Asia/Pacific region, more than any other U.S. carrier, and has successfully launched 11 new nonstop flights from the U.S. mainland to destinations throughout the Asia/Pacific region since 2014.

United's application is in response to the U.S. DOT instituting a competitive route proceeding to allocate slot pairs, with today's application filed under DOT proceeding # DOT-OST-2019-0014.

For more information about United's bid, visit UnitedTo-Haneda.com. (PR)

Fee waivers for NMC into session participants

Individuals who participate in Northern Marianas College's upcoming information sessions on Thursday, Feb. 28, 2019, will qualify to have their NMC spring 2019 admission application fee and placement test fees waived a savings of up to \$75.

The info session will be held from 5:30pm to 6:30pm at NMC's Olympio Borja Library in Building O. The sessions will cover topics that include financial aid options, the Prior Learning Assessment program, admissions, and other topics.

The college's spring 2019 semester will begin on April 1, 2019. A list of the classes that are offered can be found at www.marianas.edu.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (emphasis in elementary education, early

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childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), bachelor of science degree in business management (emphasis in accounting); associate of arts degree in business, associate of applied science degrees in business administration (emphasis in accounting, business management, or computer applications), associate of arts in liberal arts (emphasis in education, health and physical education, and social work), associate of science in nursing, natural resources management, associate of applied science in criminal justice, and hospitality management.

For more information about registering for classes for the upcoming fall 2018 semester or to apply for admission, contact the NMC Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6768/6769/6771 or visit www.marianas.edu. (NMC)



Woman in 'ice' trafficking case gets 15 years

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA Kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com

A woman who was involved in the trafficking of over 100 grams of hydrochloride methamphetamine, or "ice," was sentenced yesterday to 15 years in prison.

Biyu Hu, 36, a woman who uses "Brother" as her alias, was sentenced vesterday to 15

years in prison, all suspended except for 7.5 years, by Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan.

Hu was also approached to cooperate with CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force officers to identify others who have allegedly trafficked in illegal substances.

During her sentencing yesterday, Bogdan said that the

Ex-DYS social worker files sexual harassment lawsuit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE REPORTER

A former social worker in the Child Protection Unit of the Division of Youth Services has filed a sexual harassment lawsuit in federal court against her then-supervisor.

The woman, who is presently residing in the state of Washington, is suing her thensupervisor with DYS, Julian R. Camacho, the CNMI government, and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' DYS.

Saipan Tribune opted to withhold the plaintiff's identification for the meantime.

As of press time yesterday, Saipan Tribune was still trying to obtain comments from Camacho.

The plaintiff, through counsel Joseph E. Horey, is suing Camacho for violation of her civil rights, and the CNMI government and DYS for unlawful employment practices and violation of her civil rights. She demands a jury trial.

The woman is demanding damages, court costs, and attorney's fees.

She asked the court to issue an order preventing the defendants from engaging in unlawful employment practices.

According to Horey in the complaint filed last Friday, plaintiff was employed by the Commonwealth as a social worker in the Child Protection Unit of DYS from December 2012 to May 2014.

Horey said Camacho, the plaintiff's male supervisor in the CPU, repeatedly subjected her to verbal and physical conduct of a sexual nature, including making sexual advances at her, over the course of several months.

"This conduct by the supervisor was unwelcome to plaintiff, and she refused and rebuffed his sexual advances," the lawyer said.

Horey said plaintiff complained to the heads of DCCA and DYS about the supervisor's conduct, but they failed to take adequate or effective action to protect her.

Horey said due to the failure of the agency heads to take adequate or effective action to protect plaintiff from such action, she resigned from her employment.

Plaintiff then filed a discrimination charge against the Commonwealth with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, relating to the conduct of Camacho.

Horey said the EEOC, after investigation, found that the evidence "was sufficient to establish a violation of Title VII" of the Civil Rights Act.

Horey said as a result of Camacho's actions, plaintiff has been deprived of liberty and property without due process of law in violation of the CNMI Constitution.

He said the plaintiff has been denied the equal protection of the laws, has been denied the enjoyment of civil rights, has been discriminated against on account of sex, and that her right of individual privacy has been infringed.

Thursday Market vendors urged to attend meeting

Former Thursday Market ven- ply for a spot again and new dors and those interested in vendors are encouraged. participating in the night market are urged to attend the upcoming meeting on Thursday, Feb. 28, to discuss the new requirements.

According to Lucy Selepeo, Commonwealth Council for the Arts coordinator, vendors still interested in participating in the returning Thursday night market are required to come to the vendors meeting on Thursday at the Carolinian Affairs Office at 4pm.

Selepeo said that returning vendors will be required to ap-

There have been changes to the application as well as vendor fees and everything will be discussed at the meeting.

Applications forms will be ready at the meeting and vendors who do not show up will not be part of the returning Street Market.

Commonwealth Council for the Arts executive director Parker Yobei said the Thursday Market will return after the meeting. so the anticipated return is the following Thursday, March 7. (Kimberly A. Bautista)

because there were many factors to consider, including Hu's criminal background, which was spotless up until her arrest for ice trafficking, the fact that she took responsibility for what she did, testimonies given by people closest to her about her personality, her role as the sole breadwinner for her family and her son in China, and the fact that she was allegedly coerced into the meth

business by individuals who

threatened her and her family

in China and was allegedly a

victim of human trafficking.

Hu was given credit for 21 months that she had already served, dropping her 90-month sentence to 88 months.

Hu is also eligible for parole if she decides to stay in the CNMI, she was not ordered to pay court fines, and was sentenced to 90 months of supervised probation following her release.

Hu entered the CNMI as a tourist and overstayed, working several jobs before she was allegedly forced into the methamphetamine distribution business.

During her sentencing, Hu was moved to tears when video testimonies made by her mother-in-law, aunt, and son were played before the court for her defense.

Hu's brother from Hong Kong also flew in to support his sister and testified that she has always been a good person but she made wrong decisions in desperation to pay off family debt in China.

According to court information, Hu underwent a psychiatric exam and was diagnosed with depression and other mental disorders that could have been from the trauma she endured while she was forced to sell drugs or from other traumatic events in her life.

The CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force arrested Hu in Dandan in May 2017 for allegedly selling and yielding

100 grams of "ice" worth between \$40,000 and \$50,000 during "buy-walk operations" on Saipan.



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Boy Scouts use UOG book to fulfill requirements

Since the University of Guam Press released the revised edition of *Trees and Shrubs of the Mariana Islands* in September, many people have expressed their appreciation in having an accessible reference for plants in the region.

The CHamoru District Boy Scouts of America, for one, used the book to identify native and toxic plants during a scavenger hunt held in December in Hagåtña.

"As part of rank advance-

ment, the boys need to learn to identify at least 10 local plants and have an understanding of the dangers of hazardous plants," said Roy Tsutsui, Boy Scouts volunteer. "These requirements have been a significant challenge because there are not many people available who can take boys on tours to show them the plants."

Tsutsui said the plant identification book made that requirement much easier.

Originally published in

1991 by the late Lynn Raulerson, a former University of Guam professor, and science educator Agnes F. Reinhart, the book has been out of print for years.

"The UOG College of Natural & Applied Sciences, with permission from Reinhart, decided to revise and update the nomenclature and photographs. We are gratified to hear that the Boy Scouts have put it to good use," said Lee S. Yudin, dean of CNAS.

Tsutsui is a UOG alumnus, and Raulerson was one of his main professors. He credits her with teaching him everything he knows about plants. During his studies he also had a part-time job at the Guam Herbarium, curated by Raulerson during her years at UOG. Tsutsui worked on collecting and processing plants from Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands for leukemia research.

Trees and Shrubs of the Mariana Islands serves the needs of teachers, students, biologists, tourists, nature lov-



The winning team of the CHamoru District Boy Scouts of America scavenger hunt in December. From left, Tyler Anderson; Billy Naputi; Gavin Hartzell; Kiki Kalima; Kawika Davis; Conner Hartzell; Bill Davis; Roy Tsutsui, event Coordinator; Aaron Waibel; Melissa Waibel; George Waibel, and Christian Taiwerbwe.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAN

TERI

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produce pursuant to the subpoena served on her by defendant Joseph Seman Epina. She also pointed out that Epina has failed to meet his burden to compel her testimony.

In his reply, Epina, through counsel assistant public defender Heather M. Zona, asked the court to strike the government's motion to quash the subpoena and deny Tenorio's request for telephonic appearance.

Zona said Tenorio should be ordered to show cause why she should not be held in contempt for disobeying a subpoena and a court order.

The subpoena on Tenorio seeks her testimony and all documents pertaining to communications between her and the minor.

In the government's motion to quash, Tenorio said she took no notes nor made any "documents," as defined in the subpoena, during any meeting involving the criminal matter for which Epina is charged.

She said prior to the court's order that changed the original hearing from Feb. 21, 2019, she was scheduled to depart the CNMI last Sunday, Feb. 24, upon the expiration of her employment contact as an assistant attorney general.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho set an evidentiary hearing for tomorrow, Wednesday.

Tenorio requested the court to take judicial notice of its prior decision in criminal matters where the defendant had subpoenaed the prosecuting attorney who handled the case to testify.

The prior decision refers to Camacho's order granting the government's motion to quash the subpoena of a prosecutor who handled the case as the defendant, a former Rota police officer, failed to establish a compelling need by showing the necessity of the prosecutor's testimony and that all other available sources of comparably probative evidence have been exhausted.

In Epina's motion to strike, Zona said they filed a motion to compel discovery after it became clear that, among other things, the prosecution had participated in the tainting of the memory of the sole complaining witness in the case.

"Indeed, it appears that Ms. Tenorio conducted an interview of Mr. Epina's accuser for many hours over two days," she pointed out.

Zona said the court set an evidentiary hearing in this case for Feb. 15 and served subpoenas, including one on Tenorio.

The government then moved to quash the subpoenas.

Camacho subsequently reset the evidentiary hearing to tomorrow, Wednesday, at 9am.

Each time, the court made clear the individuals under subpoena were ordered to appear at the new dates, Zona said.

Zona said now, on the last business day she is scheduled to be on Saipan, Tenorio has filed the motion to quash, asserting that she is scheduled to leave the island last weekend.

She said it appears Tenorio made her travel plans to Guam the same date the judge issued his order.

"This belated notice is yet another example of the Commonwealth's inability to act in good faith and follow the rules that everyone else is inclined to follow," she pointed out.

Zona said because the motion to quash already is sub judice, this "new" motion to quash should be stricken as "duplicative, cumulative, and a waste of judicial resources."

Zona said the subpoenas request that Tenorio come to court with material concerning her meetings with Epina's accuser.

For the first time, she said, Tenorio claims she does not have any notes.

"The concept of a prosecutor (or any attorney) not taking notes while interviewing a witness defies credulity," she said. Zona said given the lack of candor by the Office of the Attorney General, such an assertion cannot be accepted at face value.

The defense counsel said should the court allow Epina to proceed with the witnesses subpoenaed, Tenorio should be asked about materials she is required to bring to court that reflects dates she met with Epina's accuser (among other things).

"This task cannot be done remotely, unless Ms. Tenorio is planning on bringing OAG files with her once she leaves the office," she said.

Zona asked the court to issue an order to show cause wherein Tenorio would be compelled to explain why she is able to disregard a subpoena and a court order.

Zona said every day bench warrants are issued to criminal defendants who fail to adhere to court orders.

"It would be a sad statement were Ms. Tenorio allowed to decide which court orders to follow without facing the consequences governing everyone else," she said.

The 45-year-old Epina is facing charges for raping a then-12-year-old girl on Saipan on March 12, 2016. The girl told police that it was not the first time that he sexually assaulted her.

The OAG charged Epina with sexual assault of a minor in the first degree, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

ers, and the public who wish to learn more about the island's native and naturalized trees. The laminated pages allow the book to be used as a field guide rain or shine. It can be found at the Triton Bookstore at https://store.uog.edu/books, other local bookstores, and at www.uog.edu/uogpress.

The University of Guam Press publishes an array of academic and literary books and on the unique history, environment, peoples, cultures, and languages of the islands that make up the Western Pacific region. UOG Press strives to increase the availability of exceptional scholarly and literary texts that can be used as learning resources about Guam and Micronesia for people and institutions in the region and throughout the world. (PR)

journals with a specific focus

LABOR

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president's residence at lunchtime but he first sat down with Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and her husband, Jeff Cook, on Sunday morning to discuss their joint efforts of lobbying the federal government to putt the Philippines back on the H-2B work visa program.

The Department of Homeland Security has removed the eligibility of citizens from the Philippines to avail of the H-2B visa after reviews and other studies showed that workers from that country have a 40-percent overstay rate and 60 percent were trafficked to the U.S.

Torres has already met with acting Interior secretary David Berhardt, and Insular and International Affairs assistant secretary Douglas W. Domenech.

Torres will continue with his meetings with federal officials to further discuss the H-2B visa issue and the CNMI parole program that was also discontinued by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services last December.

Torres will meet with other officials from the White House, DHS, Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of the Insular Affairs, and the U.S. Department of Defense.

He is also set to attend several committee hearings in both the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate in connection with the CNMI's labor and immigration issues.

Details of the meeting were not yet available at press time, with the administration set to release statements and

other updates within the week or after Torres' testimony in Congress.

Torres, last weekend, joined governors of the 50 states and the four other territories for the NGA's 111th winter meeting.

Leaders from the business and non-profit sector, and global governments joined the NGA's plenary sessions where topics that were discussed were on governance and civic innovation, and roundtable discussions on child welfare, resiliency against disaster, education reform, and entrepreneurship.

Torres has also requested the federal government to convene the Section 902 Talks in connection with the CNMI's immigration issues and its economic viability.

Torres and the four other U.S. territory governors are scheduled for the 2019 Senior Plenary Session of the Interagency Group on Insular Areas at the White House, and he will also meet with CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) in his office in D.C.

On Tuesday, Feb. 26, Torres and the other governors of the territories, at the invitation of Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), will testify before the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing.

On Feb. 27, Torres is scheduled to testify before the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee on an invitation by Sablan in connection with the hearing in connection with the CNMI Delegate's H.R. 560—the Northern Mariana Islands Residents Relief Act—and the impact of the Philippines' H-2B worker visa eligibility. He would end the day with a meeting with DoD officials.

DPS

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"Brother."

At the scene, task force officers seized 42 grams of "ice" with a street value of about \$29,000.

The suspect was arrested pursuant to an arrest warrant issued by Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho. The suspect's bail was set at \$100,000.

Probable cause to arrest Brother was reported by a task force officer following two "buy-walk" operations in Dan Dan and in Gualo Rai on Feb. 22.

Saipan Tribune archives report that two other men who

also go by "Brother" were arrested in Chinatown for alleged possession and trafficking of methamphetamine.

Ruijun Huang, 46, and Zhao Xin Zhu, 40, were charged last Friday with possession of a controlled substance and trafficking of a controlled substance.

Huang is the alleged source of supply for methamphetamine while Zhu is the alleged deliveryman.

According to court documents, a cooperating defendant of the task force expressed willingness to help law enforcement in conducting a monitored and recorded purchase from Huang.

On Feb. 21 at around 9:53am, DETF officers mon-

itored a phone conversation between the cooperating defendant and Huang and were able to determine a meet-up at an abandoned carwash area in Garapan. DETF officers gave the cooperating defendant \$1,400 to purchase two grams of meth from Huang.

DETF surveillance teams then established a perimeter around the abandoned carwash area and equipped the cooperating defendant with a wire to record the transaction.

At about 10:13am, DETF officers observed a green Toyota Corolla park along the street directly south of the abandoned carwash. The man who exited the car was described as a tall and skinny

Asian male dressed in black and was identified later as Huang or Brother.

Huang was then seen entering the cooperating defendant's car where the transaction was made.

with the cooperating defendant and procured a small clear plastic baggie that contained a crystalline substance, the recording device, and the \$300 that was unused.

The crystalline substance later tested positive for the presence of methamphetamine.

DETF surveillance teams then followed Huang's vehicle to a compound in Chinatown where he and Zhu were arrested.

Saipan's Payless unaffected by bankruptcy filing

jon_perez@saipantribune.com

The Saipan branch of Payless ShoeSource is among the retail stores that are not affected by the decision of its parent company to close more than 2,500 shops in North America. The company filed for relief under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code last week.

The discount shoe store, in a statement sent to Saipan Tribune by Payless Communications director Lauren Jeffords, filed for Chapter 11 at the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Missouri, with some subsidiaries under Payless Canada also seeking protection "pursuant to the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act in the Ontario Court of Justice."

"Payless intends to use these proceedings to facilitate a wind-down of its approximately 2,700 store locations in North America and its e-commerce operations. The company expects that Payless store closings will begin at the end of March and many stores will remain open through the end of May, as it conducts liquidation sales in the U.S. and Canada. Payless has also wound down its e-commerce operations," said Jeffords in the statement.

Consumers at the North America stores of Payless can get shoes as much as 80-percent off because of its U.S. liquidation sale, where they are selling everything from their current stocks.

Payless Saipan manager Flor Deleon Guerrero said



The Saipan store of Payless ShoeSource will remain open and is not affected by the discount shoe store's decision to file for Chapter 11. Payless will be closing more than 2,500 branches in North America.

'Transition Committee reports were basis for Cabinet re-appointments'

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Cabinet re-appointments were based on reports submitted to the administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres by the Transition Committee, headed by local GOP president and Department of Public Works Secretary James Ada.

Former Precinct 3 representative Felicidad Ogumoro, senior policy adviser Glenna S. Palacios-Reyes, and Vincent DLG Torres were the other members of the committee.

Press secretary Kevin Bautista said the list of Cabinet re-appointments have been submitted to the Senate's Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, which is now preparing to hold confirmation hearings. Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Saipan) chairs the committee.

Mark Rabauliman (Commerce), Robert Hunter (Community and Cultural Affairs), Vincent Attao (Corrections), Clyde Norita (Fire and Emergency Medical Services), Vicky Benavente (Labor), Anthony Benavente (Lands and Natural Resources), Marianne Teregeyo (Public Lands), and Robert Guerrero (Public Safety) are the department heads that were on the list submitted by the administration to the Senate.

Only Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson was not on the list and Bautista said a formal announcement and submission of the name of the person who would be replacing her will be made soon.

"The individual must provide the skills necessary to stabilize and fix our government finances as we recover from the devastation wrought by

Typhoon Mangkhut and Super Typhoon Yutu. The person should examine the cost expenditures and make sure the monthly reports are being accurately relayed to the administration for the benefit of the general public," said Bautista.

they would remain open to

serve their loyal customers

in the CNMI. She said that

sales have been brisk, espe-

cially when they began their

'Buy One-Get One" promo

last month, where consumers

would get the second pair of

shoes at half off.

Bautista said Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios made the re-appointment decisions after discussions with the Transition Committee on the report. The administration, as part of government protocol, has accepted all courtesy resignations submitted by Cabinet secretaries and other heads of all offices under the Executive Branch.

"Those that are re-appointed will undergo the same process of confirmation hearings by the Senate [EAGI] committee. The governor and lieutenant governor provide their deliberation and consent on the names that were submitted to the Senate," Bautista told Saipan Tribune.

"The Senate [EAGI committee] has the power to suggest to the governor who would be retained at their posts. Gov. Torres respects that constitutional power in order to finalize the final composition of the Cabinet, the directors of each offices, and other agency heads."

He added that Torres and Palacios carefully examined and studied the reports of the Transition Committee.

"It is the...belief of the governor and lieutenant governor that the re-appointments... would go to the Senate process. [Cabinet re-appointments] would continue the good work they have done in their respective departments [and], at the same time improve on their weak points."

"We have a wide range sas," Deleon Guerrero told of affordable shoes in stock and a new shipment has also arrived. So, our customers will have more choices. Our shipment of new shoes arrives every week. We get our shoes direct from the head office in Topeka, Kan-

Saipan Tribune.

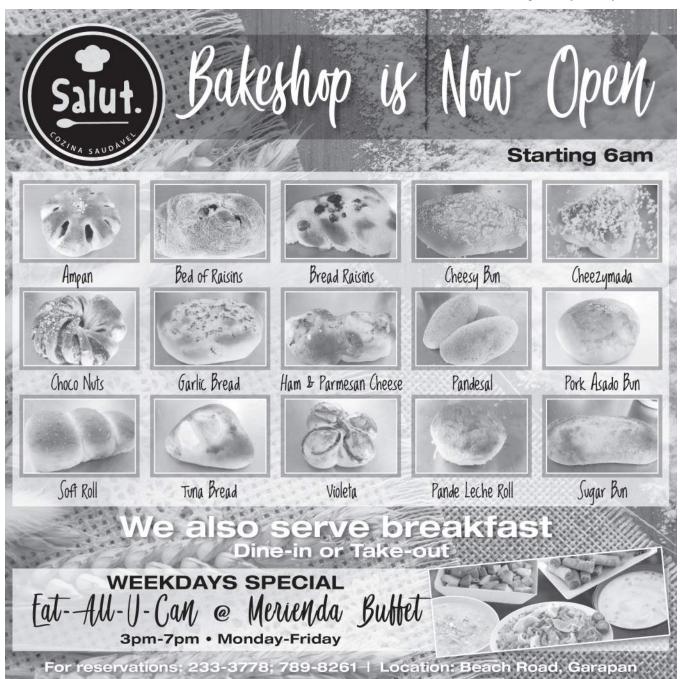
"We will still be getting our shoes direct from the Payless head office in Kansas, despite the company closing its North American stores. There are no major changes to our operations and the shipment of shoes regularly come in every week.'

One of Payless' regular customers, Eric Tamiana, said he is relieved that the Saipan store won't close down after what happened to its parent company. "This is where I buy my shoes. ... Payless offers good quality pair of shoes at an affordable price. I've been buying shoes here for three years now. This is where I buy the shoes for my family. ... My nephews even say that they still use the shoes that I bought for them."

Payless began its operations on Saipan in 2004 and used to have another branch at the Garapan Commercial District but had to close it down in 2006 due to the bleak economic condition of the CNMI back then.

Payless Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands are also not affected by the closure, along with the 420 company-owned stores in 20 countries in Latin America and the 370 international franchise shops in the Middle East, India, Africa, Indochina, and the Philippines.

Saipan's Payless store in San Jose is open from Mondays to Saturdays, from 10am to 9pm, and from 10am to 8pm every Sunday.



Street market electronics taken apart for Wutip

By ERWIN ENCINARES

erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Staff of the Commonwealth Councils of Arts and Culture, a division of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, took down over the weekend some of the electronic components for the weekly Thursday Street Market in preparation for Super Typhoon Wutip.

According to CCAC executive director Parker Yobei, they disassembled the electricals for the weekly Thursday Street Market at the Garapan Fishing Base in case Super Typhoon Wutip changed course.

The typhoon was expected to pass south of Guam, which it did.

"...We have already started installing the panel boxes and the weatherheads but because of [then-Tropical Storm Wutip], [the council] had to take it down," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "I don't want to chance it with the weather."

"For these guys to be working in that kind of weather is not safe," he added, referring to the staff of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

In a previous interview, Yobei noted that the weekly Thursday Street Market may be re-opened in as early as three weeks. What remains is reconnecting back to Saipan's power grid, which can only be done through CUC.

"We have communicated with CUC to hook us back up to the [power] grid and it wasn't a problem. [CUC executive director Gary Camacho] is very supportive," he said, adding that if not for the weather, the reconnection would be completed sooner.

Musical highlights culture, language, family values

By ERWIN ENCINARES

erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com

An original Mt. Carmel School musical that focused on island culture and the importance of family values played to sold-out crowds last Thursday and Friday evening at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Tasi, written by MCS president Galvin Deleon Guerrero and directed by student Kalea Lou Bullan Borja, sold over

460 seats during their performances last Thursday and Friday evening.

Tasi is a musical about how a small village during the ancient Chamorro times was able to overcome their fear of the ocean after a devastating typhoon took the life of a villager. The play highlights Chamorro-translated songs along with the occasional Chamorro humor.

"The inspiration is really the

values of our island culture, the values of family, the values of loyalty, and the values of nature," Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview. "All of these things intersect in this production."

He said the play was written just before Super Typhoon Yutu.

"In the story, typhoons play a very important role and it show[ed] in the play how people are resilient and they push through the typhoons and they deal with it," he said. "...Both the story and the actual delivery of the show is a testament to what we can do as a people."

Borja noted that incorporating and translating the songs and phrases in Chamorro helped deepen the play's meaning.

For members of the cast who did not speak Chamorro, "it took about two months to get used to the songs," Borja said.

"[The cast] was so determined to show the Chamorro spirit and pride that they really worked hard to memorize the Chamorro words, even though they did not know how to say it," she added.

One of the spectators last Friday, Bishop Ryan Jimenez, said the musical is in the vein of MCS Theatre Club's excellent annual show.

"[Deleon Guerrero] and his MCS family every year come up with an excellent production," he said, adding that theme of the play was very timely since the CNMI is recovering from two devastating typhoons, Super Typhoon Yutu and Typhoon Mangkhut.

"It [was] fun while being able to instill important values into the production," he said, adding that it is always good to see students excelling in areas other than academics.

CNMI Board of Education chair Janice Tenorio was also impressed by how the musical was presented.

"The musical was very creative and cultural as well," she said. "I am really happy the bilingual [aspect of students] are also implemented in private schools. I've heard the students and had goosebumps when they started speaking in Chamorro and then translating into English so everybody would understand."





A packed house at the Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret showed up for the second performance of the musical.

ERWIN ENCINARES



The cast celebrates a successful performance Friday evening.

ERWIN ENCINARES



The main cast members, Kina Dela Cruz, John San Nicolas, Kalyn Diaz, and Aysia Adele Duenas Santos, bow to the audience after their performance.

SIS to compete in model UN in S. Korea

By ERWIN ENCINARES

erwin_encinares@saipantribune.con

Saipan International School would be representing the CNMI in Model United Nations that would be held South Korea next month.

Model United Nations is a competition where students role-play as delegates to the United Nations and simulate UN committees. A total of 11 schools are reportedly participating in the competition.

"We got accepted into the competition," said Eileen No, an SIS student who is part of the team representing the CNMI. "This is the first time the CNMI is represented in this competition."

Her sister, Andrea No, would also be joining the SIS team. According to her, there are nine members in total and would be heading to Jeju Island, South Korea with two SIS staff on March 28, 2019, and are set to come back in early April.

"There are different conferences but there is only one competition," Eileen said.

Both Eileen and Andrea reported their intent to represent the CNMI during last Tuesday's Rotary Club of Saipan meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan. They noted that they are looking to raise enough funds to send all nine members to the conference to represent the CNMI.

So far, Eileen noted that they have raised about \$2,000 as of Feb. 19, 2019.

"We sought out [donations from] a lot of [business establishments]," said Eileen. "We went everywhere on Saipan."

After the club meeting, Rotary Club president-elect Marcia Ayuyu donated \$500 to the team on her behalf.

According to SIS headmaster Ron Snyder, those interested in donating to send the team to South Korea may contact SIS at 288-9660 for more details.







A Mt. Carmel original play, *Tasi*, is set during ancient Chamorro times.

Finance to check for business license compliance

The Department of Finance will be inspecting business establishments in the Commonwealth to ensure that they have business licenses and are issuing receipts to customers.

The inspection is intended to ensure compliance with the Business Licensing Processing Act of 1998 and the Sales Receipt Act of 2002.

The Licensing Act and

Business License Regulations require businesses to obtain a business license, for each line of business and business location, before engaging in business in the CNMI. Business licenses must be renewed within 30 days prior to the expiration of the current license. Any business found operating without a valid business license shall be subject to a penalty of \$1,500 and may be subject to an additional penalty of \$250 per day for every additional day that the business is in violation.

As a measure to reduce administrative costs, the Department of Finance will no longer be issuing courtesy business license renewal notifications. Accordingly, take note of business license expiration

licenses are renewed timely.

dates to ensure that business

The Receipt Act and Cash Receipts and Compliance Regulations require all persons who receive gross revenue from a sale in the CNMI to provide a receipt for the transaction. In addition, such persons are required to preserve legible copies of sales receipts, including voided receipts, for a period of at least six calendar years following the year of transaction. Receipts must be totaled daily by receipt sequence range

and meet the specifications outlined in the Regulations. Violations of the Act could result in fines of up to \$2,500 and business license revocation.

For additional information, contact the Enforcement and Regulatory Branch at (670) 664-1010. (PR)

DPS joins USCG search and rescue training

SANTA RITA, Guam—U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam orchestrated a multi-agency Search and Rescue Coordination & Execution course for emergency responders at Guam Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense, with the focus of enhancing government agencies' joint response to SAR, as well as continued international capacity building efforts for Sector Guam's partners.

Federal, state, military, and civilian emergency responders from the Federated States of Micronesia and Guam participated in the four-day SC&E course that was taught by the U.S. Coast Guard National Search and Rescue School out of Yorktown, Virginia.

Participating agencies included the FSM National Police Maritime Wing, the CNMI Department of Public Safety, Guam Fire Rescue, USCGC Kiska, USCGC Washington, and USCG Sector Guam.

The SC&E course introduced participants to various procedures and techniques required to coordinate and execute a maritime search.

The lessons covered included: SAR System and Organization, Maritime SAR Assistance Policy, General Salvage Policy, Firefighting Policy, Navigational Assistance policy, introduction to Search Planning, Search Area Development, SARSAT System, Search Planning Variables, SAR Mission Communications, Search Patterns, SAR Operations, Onscene Coordinator Duties, Resource Capabilities, Uncorrelated Distress, and Operational Risk Management, as well as numerous exercises and labs.

Traditionally, the SC&E is taught to Coast Guard aircrew and boat crew members. However, due to strong inter-agency SAR coordination on Guam among a myriad of agencies, the course is open to any government of Guam entity that has the potential to respond to maritime SAR. The 2019 SC&E course convening was unique for another reason: Rear Adm. Kevin Lunday, commander, Coast Guard 14th District and Master Chief Petty Officer Lori Fields, command master chief, made a courtesy visit at the Guam Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense and discussed the importance of strengthening interagency cooperation as well as partnerships in the South Pacific region.

Coast Guard Sector Guam's Search and Rescue Region encompasses nearly 1.9 million square nautical miles of the Western Pacific Ocean, to include Guam, the CNMI, FSM, and Republic of Palau. (PR)

PCF still accepting applications

By ERWIN ENCINARES

erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com REPORTER

A leadership development program created by the charity arm of a local business corporation is still accepting applications.

Those interested in joining the Pacific Century Fellows Program Marianas Chapter still have until March 1, 2019, to turn in their applications.

The program was created by the Tan Siu Lin Foundation, the charity arm of TanHoldings Corp., and is designed to offer leadership training to motivated individuals.

The nine-month program has goals similar to the objectives of Hawaii's PCF program that was founded by the former mayor of Honolulu, Hawaii, Mufi Hannemann, in 1996. The PCF in Hawaii, in turn, drew inspiration from the White House Fellows Program, founded by former president Lyndon B. Johnson in 1964.

"The most important thing of the program is you get to experience the ins and outs of the public and private sector," said CNMI Scholarship Office workforce program coordinator and Class 2017 fellow Monique Sablan.

Sablan noted that once you are selected into program, you would be undergoing at least two retreats to Guam and Hawaii for three days and a week, respectively. She further noted that the retreats educate fellows on several topics relative to the CNMI and the Western Pacific in general such as workforce development, education, government, healthcare, and more.

'Some of the most important things that I've learned is to see firsthand how these agencies and corporations within the public and private sector...[operate]," she said, adding that they had also been afforded the opportunity to ask questions on the spot.

"...You get an inside view

of how other islands operate and develop within our region," she said. "You can see the similarities and differences and it is very important because young professionals... are the region's future."

For those interested in joining the program, you may submit a completed application that is downloaded from the PCF website at www.pcf-marianas. com before March 1, 2019.

Applicants must be within ages 25 to 45 years old; have resided in the CNMI for at least one year; provide two letters of recommendation; must attend the opening weekend retreat from March 16, 2019, to March 17, 2019; and must meet the minimum attendance requirements to join.

The program would be selecting fellows on March 9, 2019, that aspiring members are mandated to attend.

For more information, you may call Mel Naputi at 235-0560 ext. 118 or click http:// www.pcf-marianas.com/.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-19-008

SUPPLY OF FUEL FOR LIGHT VEHICLES AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the supply of fuel for light vehicles and heavy equipment for CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-work will be emailed to all registered prospective proposers email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and four (4) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk or USB Drive in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-19-008 -Supply of Fuel for Light Vehicles and Heavy Equipment" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than March 4, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST). Late submissions and conditional proposals

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on February 15, 2019 to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John Mafnas, CUC Contract Specialist via email address john.mafnas@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrative Technician, Senior via email address

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO **Executive Director**

MANNY B. SABLAN Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



EMERGENCY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-19-014

SADOG TASI PRIMARY SCREEN PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the attai Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-work will be emailed to all registered prospective proposers email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and four (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk or USB Drive in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-19-014, Sadog Tasi Primary Screen Project" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than March 22, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST). Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all percent supplying labors and material to the contractor or its euthorized to a performance of the united required for in the contractor. of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on March 8, 2019 to Manny B, Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator at email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Westen Knudsen, P.E., Senior Engineer for Water/Wastewater at email address westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrative Technician, Senior at email address

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO Executive Director MANNY B. SABLAN Purchasing Administrator

'Black Ties & Zories' Wish Night at the Hyatt

Celebrate the power of a wish at the "Black Ties & Zories" Wish Night on Friday, March 1, 2019, that will also celebrate the 30th anniversary of Make-A-Wish Guam and CNMI at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Ballroom.

Wishes are more than just a nice thing. And they are far more than gifts, or singular events in time. Wishes impact everyone involved—wish kids, volunteers, donors, sponsors, medical professionals, and communities. The impact varies. For wish kids, just the act of making their wish come true can give them the courage to comply with their medical treatments. Parents might finally feel like they can be optimistic. And still others might realize all they have to offer the world through volunteer work or philanthropy. Whatever the odds, whatever the obstacles...wishes find a way to make the world better.

The "Black Ties & Zories" Wish Night is a chance for the CNMI community to come together to not only celebrate the 295 wishes granted in the region, but also help secure continued funding of wishes for those families impacted by a child's critical illness.

for sale at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, Gold's Gym Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, and board members Wendi Herring (285-6175), Jay Santos (285- 5466), and Kanae Quinn (285-1168) or email cnmiwish@gmail.com more information.

The evening starts with a complimentary cocktail hour from 6pm to 7pm, followed by a four-course menu created specially created by Hyatt executive chef Gabriel Colombo. Saipan's favorite JJ Concepcion will sing some of his popular songs with a special guest appearance by Louise Muña. The best zories contest promises to award fabulous prizes to the best male and best female guests, and the raffle packages will include a multitude of spectacular items and gift certificates. DJ Rico will conclude the evening's festivities while guests have a chance to put on their dancing zories.

About

The Make-A-Wish Foundation grants the wishes of children with critical illnesses. Our mission is: "Together, we create life-changing wishes for children with critical ill-Tickets are still available nesses. "Founded in 1980 teers helped a young boy ful-

when a group of caring volun- fill his dream of becoming a is one of the world's leading

police officer, the foundation children's charities, with 64

and its territories. (PR)

Japan spring festival on March 2

Bouncing back from last weekend's stormy weather, the Japanese Society of the Northern Marianas will host an evening of food, fun, and festivities at the Japanese Spring Festival this Saturday, March 2.

The festival, held in conjunction with the Marianas Visitors Authority and other tourism partners, will be held from 5pm to 9pm in the main tourism district of Garapan, at the Paseo de Marianas pedestrian mall. A bazaar from 4pm to 6pm will kick off the event.

"This festival is one of many examples of the historic ties between the Marianas and Japan, and our society is warmly welcoming all residents and visitors." said Masato Tezuka, chairman of the Japanese Society of the Northern Marianas, in a statement.

In addition to the bazaar, the celebration will feature traditional culture demon-



FILE-The Japan Autumn Festival is finally pushing through on March 2, 2019, at Paseo de Marianas in Garapan, from 5pm to 9pm, with a bazaar from 4pm to 6pm. The festival is organized by the Japan Society of the Northern Marianas with support from the Marianas Visitors Authority and other supporters.

strations and dances by Saipan Awaodori team, Himawari Kenbukan, and live band performance by SU-SAN Band. A Bon Odori dance will show honor and appreciation for ancestors. Food vendors will also be selling popular Japanese foods such as yaki-soba, karaage, tempura,, tako-yaki, yakitori, and more. Game booths will include ring toss, shooting gallery, super ball, and water balloon fishing. A raffle drawing will feature prizes include an iPad, an LED TV, a smartphone, and more.

"The Marianas Visitors Au-

thority is pleased to join the Japanese society in making the spring festival possible for the community this year. This festival is one of many examples of the historic ties between the Marianas and Japan and the importance of our Japanese visitors today, and we are very excited about the strengthening of this relationship with the return of direct flight service from Japan this year by Skymark Airlines," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "We join the Japanese Society in warmly welcoming all residents and visitors of all cultures to come experience this fun, educational festival."

Tezuka added that the Japanese Society is looking into the possibility of establishing a sister-city relationship between Saipan and Katori City, Japan.

The festival is hosted annually by the Japanese Society of the Northern Marianas as a cultural exchange activity. (PR)

65 obtain career certifications from LTA

The Latte Training Academy Inc. continues to make contributions to the CNMI's workforce pipeline, the latest example of which was the certification ceremony for 65 individuals last Feb. 19, 2019.

Sixty-five persons were certified in the areas of office manager, bookkeeping, as well as hotel and hospitality specialty courses and its skills tasks and results training certifications.

Each of the participants received certifications through nationally or internationally recognized and accredited organizations, including the National Bookkeepers Association and Accounting Training Unlimited and the American Hotel & Hospitality Educational Institute.

"We are extremely pleased with the outcome of our programs. These participants have achieved a nationally recognized certification that opens the doors to their chosen career path. As with all of our students, we encourage today's recipients to continue to develop their career skill sets and work toward their chosen occupational goal," said LTA's executive director Arielle Buyum.

The courses were facilitated by experienced instructors like Kanae Quinn, Jill Arenovski, and Larry Lee. The use of qualified instructors served

as a key component in the high certification rate among all of the courses.

This certification ceremony included 16 participants who received their front desk certification, six received their restaurant server certification, 12 received their START certification, 11 receive their office manager certification and 20 participants received their bookkeeping certification.

"We are absolutely thrilled with the success of these participants. They put in the time and effort to prepare themselves to avail of the employment opportunities available throughout the CNMI. We

are grateful for the privilege to work alongside such wonderful members of our community and we are confident that they will contribute positively to our business sector," said LTA training partner Jim Arenovski.

The participants were able to avail of the workforce development opportunities through funding made available through the CW worker fund. The use of the funds allowed LTA to offset the cost of instruction, materials, certifications and supplies for all students.

"The Latte Training Academy has provided training and certification services to our community for the past five years at no cost to our students. We have made every effort to

work with our local agencies, federal funding sources and business partners to cover the costs associated with providing training. We were fortunate in the last fiscal year to avail of the CW worker fund alongside other training organizations; however, we were not included in this year's CW worker fund. While we were disappointed in this development, we are steadfast in our efforts to continue to provide training and certification in our community. We commend and applaud the efforts made by other training organizations to help address the monumental task of workforce development and we look forward to continuing to be a part of the solution." said LTA board member Ed Arriola Jr. (PR)



Latte Training Academy Inc. training partner Jim Arenovski joins during the certification ceremony for LTA's bookkeeping class.



Latte Training Academy Inc. training partner Jim Arenovski joins Wendi Herring during the certification ceremony for LTA's START certifica-CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy 10th birthday to Kei'ani Angel S. Hofschneider! May God bless you today and always. We love you so much! Much love from the family, especially your Mommy and Daddy.
contributed Photo

SCS selects school reps for Islandwide STEM Fair

Saipan Community School hosted its annual science fair last Feb. 22, a culmination of all the students' hard work.

Classes from Kindergarten to 3rd grade completed class projects together. The Kindergarteners researched "Germs, Germs, GERMS," the 1st Grade completed "The Bubble Experiment," the 2nd Grade studied Buoyancy and experimented with "Boat Designs," and the 3rd grade researched "The Life Cycle of the King Crow Butterfly" and asked the question: Where Did All the Monarch Butterflies Go?

A total of 75 individual projects from 4th through 8th grade were also displayed at the fair. Projects from each grade level were rated by groups of judges before the second round of judging. Students were rated on their scientific thought and thinking process, creative ability, understanding and creative problem-solving skills, clarity and organization, as well as visuals and presentation. The second round of judging aimed to highlight the best projects out of the top projects from the previous round.

The fair culminated with an award ceremony that evening. Parents, students, and staff members were invited to view the projects on display and

SCS SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS

4th Grade

1st Place: Jihyo (Jennifer) Kim 2nd Place: David Park 3rd Place: Jason Yu

5th Grade

1st Place: Lola Guerrero 2nd Place: Fiona Kim 3rd Place: Leighton Palacios

1st Place: Jacky Zhen 2nd Place: Soledad Sablan 3rd Place: Mikaela Rabago

1st Place: Paul Camacho 2nd Place: Hui Yun Park **3rd Place:** Tiana Torres

8th Grade

1st Place: Miles Borja 2nd Place: Tiana Cabrera 3rd Place: Michelle Ryu

- Elementary: Jihyo (Jennifer) Kim
- Jr. High: Jacky Zhen (6th grade)

SCS REPS AT ISLANDWIDE STEM FAIR

- Jihyo (Jennifer) Kim (4th grade)
- Jacky Zhen (6th grade)
- Paul Camacho (7th grade)
- Hui Yun Park (7th Grade)

■ Miles Borja (8th Grade)

recognize the students' accomplishments and hard work.

AS DEADLINE TO APPLY IS TODAY

CEC: Only 44 requests for absentee ballots

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

There were only 44 who asked to apply for absentee voting by electronic/mail as of yesterday, a day before the deadline for the March 23 special election for Precinct 3.

Commonwealth Election Commission administrative officer Kayla Igitol said they really don't know why only few individuals asked to avail of absentee voting but historically, special elections or any small elections in the CNMI, has a low turnout of voters.

At the Nov. 13 general election, there were 390 absentee voters for Precinct 3.

Igitol reminded those who want to apply for absentee voting that the deadline is today, Tuesday, at 11:59pm.

CEC started accepting requests for absentee ballots last

As of last Jan. 28, there were 3,361 registered voters for Precinct 3.

At the Nov. 13 general election, there were 3,795 voters for Precinct 3 and out of those number, 2,867, including absentee voters, or 75.54 percent, cast their votes.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres set the March 23 special election after the death of representative Francisco D. Dela Cruz last month.

There are four candidates former representative Donald Cabrera Barcinas of the Democratic Party, Marco Taisakan Peter of the Republican Party, and independent candidates David Castro Sablan and Mariano DLG Fajardo.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Judiciary Administrative Office Guma' Hustisia, limwal Aweewe, House of Justice P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950 Telephone (670) 236-9770

INVITATION TO BID ITB NO.: ITB 19-JUDICIARY-01 SUBMISSION DATE: February 28, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M

"NEW 2019-2020 VEHICLES

(5 Door All Wheel Drive Utility Vehicle)" The Commonwealth Judiciary ("Judiciary") is soliciting invitation for bids for new 2019-2020 vehicles (5 Door All Wheel Drive Utility Vehicle).

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE CASHIER WINDOW, WINDOW #1, LOCATED AT THE FRONT OF GUMA' HUSTISIA / IIMWAL AWEEWE / HOUSE OF JUSTICE, SUSUPE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
JUDICIARY EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY

<u>/s/John T. Villagomez</u> Judiciary Procurement officer



The winners of Saipan Community School's annual science fair.

Jihyo Kim in 4th grade was Winner, and Jacky Zhen in 6th awarded overall Elementary grade was awarded Overall Jr.

High Winner.

While 27 students advanced

to the second round of judging, only 15 were awarded Top 3 in their class, and only five will be able to represent SCS in the islandwide STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Fair.

SCS would like to thank the parents and guardians for all their help and support throughout this project, and to our volunteers who served as judges. We greatly appreciate the judges that came from our local science community including BECQ, DFW, NOAA, MINA, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, and NMC-ENRO.



IV.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514 Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

AMENDMENT NO. 01 PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Regular Board Meeting is scheduled on Thursday, February 28, 2019- 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in Advance.

- PRELIMINARY MATTERS

 - Roll Call
 - Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of Minutes (November 20, 2018)
- PUBLIC COMMENTS
- CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
- **OLD BUSINESS**
- **Nelrod Salary Comparability Study NEW BUSINESS**
- Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Proposal
- USDA RD MOU
- Lotus Homes Request for Additional Credits Section 8 Admin Plan Amendment
- Personnel Matters
- Isa Villas and Guma Familia Estates Return and Reallocation Request LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT
- OTHER MATTERS ADJOURNMENT

(Notes: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13 (a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB19-DCCA/DYS-028

ADDENDUM NO. 1

<u> "Purchase of one (1) five-door mini van</u>

FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS,

DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES"

Due to non-submission of the above mentioned ITB, the Secretary of DCCA and the Administrator of DYS

would like to extend the bid submission and opening dates for on-island and off-island bidders. Therefore, this addendum is issued to reschedule the bid submission and opening date.

Sealed bid submittals for this project must be submitted with one (1) original and four (4) copies to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan no later than 09:30 a.m., local time, January 07, 2019 is changed to read no later than 09:00 a.m., local time, March 06, 2019 and must be marked ITB19-DCCA/DYS-028.

➤ Bidders outside the Commonwealth must notify the Director of Procurement and Supply, in writing, of their intent to submit a Notice of Intent to Bid in order to receive this additional seven (7) working days for the receipt of the actual bid documents. This Notice of Intent to Bid may be any mode of written communication including facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or e-mailed to procurement@cnmidof.net but must be received no later than 09:30 a.m., local time, January 07,

➢ Bids submitted by firms outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country by January 07, 2019 is changed to read March 06, 2019 and mailed to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply to P.O. Box 510008, C.K., Saipan, MP 98950 and the bid documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, January 16, 2019 is changed to read March 15, 2019.

➤ Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at 09:30 a.m., local time, January 18, 2019 is changed to read 09:30 a.m., local time, March 15, 2019. However, if no Notice of Intent to Bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 09:30 a.m., local time, January 07, 2019 is changed to read 09:00 a.m., local time, March 06, 2019.

The provisions of the CNMI Procurement Regulations, NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725 and 70-30.3-730 prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks, and Contingent Fees shall apply.

The CNMI Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids or portions thereof, and waive any immaterial defects if to do so would be in the best interest of the CNMI

End of Addendum No.1

/S/ JOSEPH A. TUDELA ACTING DIRECTOR OF P&S

2019 is changed to read 09:00 a.m., local time, March 06, 2019.

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER SECRETARY OF DCCA



The U.S. Navy INVITES YOU TO PARTICIPATE in the Mariana Islands Training and Testing Supplemental EIS/OEIS **Public Involvement Process**



The U.S. Navy has prepared a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) to assess the potential environmental impacts associated with ongoing military readiness activities conducted within the Mariana Islands Training and Testing (MITT) EIS/OEIS Study Area. The draft supplement to the 2015 MITT Final EIS/OEIS supports ongoing and future activities conducted within the Study Area at sea and on Farallon de Medinilla (FDM).

Public Involvement

The Navy welcomes your review and comments on the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS. Comments may be submitted at the public meetings, online at www.MITT-EIS.com, or by mail to:

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific Attention: MITT Supplemental EIS/OEIS Project Manager 258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100 Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-3134

Comments must be postmarked or received online by March 18, 2019, Chamorro Standard Time, for consideration in the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

Open House Public Meetings: 5 to 8 p.m.

Arrive and submit comments anytime during the open house. No presentation or formal oral comment session will be conducted.

GUAM Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2019

University of Guam Jesus and Eugenia Leon Guerrero School of Business and Public Administration Building

Anthony Leon Guerrero Multi-Purpose Room 129 and Henry Sy Atrium Mangilao, Guam 96923 SAIPAN Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2019 Kanoa Resort Saipan

Seaside Hall

Beach Road in Susupe

Saipan, MP 96950 The draft document is available online at www.MITT-EIS.com or at the

following public libraries: University of Guam Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Library, Nieves M. Flores Memorial Library, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, Tinian Public Library, and Rota Public Library.



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY **CNMI GOVERNMENT**



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP NO.: RFP19-JUDICIARY-053 SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 08, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"CARPET REMOVAL AND TILE AND CARPET INSTALLATION FOR THE GUMA' HUSTISA, IIMWAL AWEEWE, HOUSE OF JUSTICE SAIPAN, NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. A PROJECT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, **OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS MUST BE IN WRITING TO GERALD E. WEAVER VIA EMAIL TO $\underline{\text{gerald.weaver@justice.gov.mp}} \ \underline{\text{NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS}}$ (3) BUSINESS DAYS AND WILL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPOSERS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL SITE VISIT WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 01, 2019 AT 10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME AT THE FRONT ENTRANCE OF THE GUMA' HUSTISIA. BUILDING SUPERINTENDENT **GERALD E. WEAVER** WILL WALK THROUGH THE ROOMS AND AREAS THAT NEED REMOVAL OF CARPET AND INSTALLATION OF TILES AND CARPET.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

SECRETARY OF FINANCE

ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

/s/ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO **CHIEF JUSTICE**

10 TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2019 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Opinion



Published daily at 2/F JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The economy is strong now but...

alf the trouble with tariffs is they are so darn tempting to the populist crowd. The other half is the math never works out in the end.

But here we go again. The Commerce Department has now delivered a report to the White House that auto industry officials worry President Trump will use as a pretext to slap up to 25 percent tariffs on imported cars and car parts. The reason he might cite will be national security.

If this sounds familiar, it should. It mirrors the administration's justification last year for tariffs on steel and aluminum. Trump's mantra is that auto tariffs would shield the U.S. economy from foreign competitors, saving jobs and enhancing national security.

Statistics show the opposite. Trade wars kill jobs and drive up costs to consumers, who are the engine behind U.S. economic growth. The auto industry is a massive contributor to the U.S. economy. A tariff war should be the last thing that the president should be considering.

The U.S. auto industry can't be walled off without throttling growth. The U.S. auto industry is made up of domestic companies, foreign manufacturers with U.S. plants and sophisticated supply chains that span national borders. Foreign parts comprise more than 40 percent of the average cars produced in the United States.

This diverse supply chain increases efficiency and lowers production costs. And the ability of auto makers to tamp down such costs makes the companies more profitable and cars more affordable.

This is why the president's belief that trade wars are easy to win is so misguided. Tariffs prompt companies to lay off workers, move development and production offshore and pass their significantly higher costs to consumers. And this isn't economic theory; It's economic reality.

According to the National Automobile Dealers Association, tariffs would add as much as \$2,270 to the cost of U.S.-built cars and \$6,875 to the cost of imported cars and trucks. The Center for Automotive Research estimates that 1.3 million fewer cars will be sold in the United States due to higher retail prices.

Another overlooked area is the impact of tariffs on foreign investment in the United States. BMW's plant in South Carolina employs more workers than its plant in Bavaria. This is an investment that tariffs might force the company to reconsider. Toyota's growing stake in Texas, visible to almost all of us in this area, is another example of the benefits of free trade. The ability to move product seamlessly across North America is a major reason behind Toyota's headquarters and production investments in Texas. Such relationships strengthen our economy and provide American workers with paychecks that ripple through and support local economies.

The auto industry generates billions of dollars for the U.S. economy and employs tens of thousands of skilled workers in all fifty states. At least 45 states, including Texas, have more than 10,000 auto-related jobs. A 25 percent tariff on imported motor vehicles and parts—and the inevitable retaliation—could put at risk at least one million jobs between now and 2021, warns the Trade Partnership Worldwide, an international trade and economic consulting firm.

Our message to Trump's tariff "help." No thanks.

(c)2019 The Dallas Morning News



BERNIE SANDERS LAUNCHES HIS CAMPAIGN.

Outrage culture is out of control

t was 9:30 at night when my husband slid his iPad across the bed to me. On it was an email an ex-employee had sent to current and former staff of his coffee-roasting company in Portland, Ore. The ex-employee explained that a new YouTube series I was hosting, #MeNeither Show, in which another journalist and I discussed, among other topics, some excesses of the #MeToo movement, was "vile, dangerous and extremely misguided."

She considered the show hostile to assault survivors, and felt it her duty to alert several newspapers that my opinions posed a potential threat to my husband's female employees and the community at large.

I told my husband it would blow over. After all, there was no suggestion in the email that he'd ever been inappropriate; only that my views were dangerous. And I hadn't worked in the business in anything but a supportive capacity for two years.

I couldn't have been more wrong. It blew up, and in less than a month, a 15-year-old business with a spotless track record is now in danger of collapse. Baristas quit and wholesale accounts fled, their unease fed by a local press that keeps banging the drum.

This is the current pitch of outrage culture, where voicing an opinion someone says she sees as a threat qualifies you for instant annihilation, no questions asked. Why ask questions, when it's more expedient, maybe more kickass, to turn anything you might disagree with into an emergency?

A sense of emergency is what people on all sides have developed an addiction to. Show us the next person to hate and we are so there; we take an animalistic pleasure in destroying the kid in the MAGA hat, in fashioning a decades-old interview with John Wayne into a knife with which to posthumously eviscerate the actor. And then we look for the next target.

Because we need that next hit, we need it right now. Being in a constant state of emergency—a condition in which people notoriously make terrible decisions—is like having a fire raging inside the body, one that needs to be fed. It needs new fuel, and so we seek new enemies.

Meanwhile some of us are watching from the sidelines, trying to stay out of the way, hoping not to be next. (Good luck with that.)

Maybe the fractiousness in which we are currently living, people sectioning themselves into smaller and smaller tribes, is a side effect of the addiction. It needs an unlimited supply of people to hate, and the smaller the in-group, the larger the potential enemy pool. That this creates rancor and instability

By NANCY ROMMELMANN

Los Angeles Times

Nancy Rommelmann is a journalist and the author most recently of the book To the Bridge: A True Story of Motherhood and Murder. Twitter: @nancyromm



for everyone is a price addicts are willing to pay; indeed, it may taste like victory.

While those engaging in these fights may be a tiny but vocal minority, they are nevertheless a contagion. They value feelings over facts. They reject direct confrontation, preferring to scrap it out online or letting the media do their work for them. Those of us who can still stomach cable news watch as opponents chew each other's faces off in prime time. Pundits and politicians who should wait for the truth to be revealed instead turn today's story into a cudgel and, when proven wrong, refuse to walk it back, and who cares anyway? There will be a new epidemic of hate-shredding in the morning, in an hour, and as soon as it's there, we engage. Or we don't, and are spattered with the blood regardless.

It can be enlivening, certainly, to get caught up in a fight. However, one should come armed with courage, rather than, say, surreptitiously taking photos of me in public and posting them on social media, or anonymously calling all my husband's vendors and telling them to stop working with a company that supports "rape culture." Yes, that's a quote. This campaign, led by so-called feminists, sees no irony in trying to drive a man out of business because his wife voices opinions of her own.

Still, I don't regard the people pitching this battle as evil. I see them as unwilling to confront the world beyond their small chosen groups. Humans are hugely nuanced and complex and fascinating, and they are great to talk to. Why anyone, especially young people, who in Portland are in the main the ones waging these campaigns, would want to experience less of humanity strikes me as profoundly sad.

I have been asked whether I hate the people who started this. The answer is I don't. I see them as afraid of the ideas of others. With this in mind, I have several times offered to have conversations about issues they evidently find dangerous enough to go to war over. No one has taken me up on the offer.

EDITORIAL POLICYLetters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immedi-

ately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

In Jussie Smollett case, Chicago police showed us the right way to behave

hen it comes to the much-commented-on Jussie Smollett case, I have one thing to say: Kudos to the Chicago Police Department.

Kudos to police Superintendent Eddie John-

son, who stood before a preposterous number of cameras Thursday morning and explained how detectives methodically investigated a reported hate crime and reached the conclusion that the whole thing was a hoax concocted by a television celebrity they claim was "dissatisfied with his salary."

Kudos to Johnson for rightfully scolding everyone—from Democratic presidential candidates to cable news talking heads to the thunderous stampede of liberal social media users—who immediately bought Smollett's story without waiting for an investigation to uncover the facts.

In this case, the police did what we all should have done. They treated Smollett, who is black and openly gay, respectfully and as a victim of a possible hate crime, but drew no conclusions. They followed the facts.

Smollett claimed he was attacked and had a noose put around his neck by men he said were wearing "Make America Great Again" hats and hurling racist and homophobic insults. The police didn't publicly question that account until they had evidence enough to charge Smollett

for making a false police report.

If only everyone else could have been so circumspect.

The leaps to conclusions without factual underpinnings were staggering, and shameful. If Smollett is found guilty, he can

certainly be credited with crafting a hoax that conformed with a narrative many on the left wanted to be true. And he can be further condemned for making it harder for real victims of real hate crimes-which have been on the rise the past two years—to be believed.

Johnson was visibly angry during his news conference, noting the moment when investigators concluded that Smollett had staged the attack.

'Quite frankly, it pissed everybody off," Johnson said.

As well it should have.

Smollett's role on the television show "Empire" meant this case would draw enormous media attention. There's not much we can do about the allure of celebrity news.

But from the jump, there was nothing concrete enough in Smollett's story to justify the outrage or the absolute acceptance that it was true. Nor was there enough evidence to seriously claim it was false.

In an age of instantaneous reaction, many either embraced Smollett and shook their heads at the state of our country or denounced Smollett and labeled him a fraud. One side was bound to be right, but we would all be a lot better off if both sides

By REX HUPPKE

Chicago Tribune

Rex Huppke is a Chicago Tribune columnist. Readers may send him email at rhuppke@chicagotribune.com.



had followed the Chicago Police Department's lead: treat the person reporting the attack as a presumed victim; be respectful; gather evidence; follow the facts; and don't reach a conclusion until it's time.

This is how Johnson began his Thursday news conference:

"This morning, I come to you not only as the superintendent of the Chicago Police Department but also as a black man who has spent his entire life living in the city of Chicago. I know the racial divide that exists here, I know how hard it has been for our city and our nation to come together, and I also know the disparities and I know the history.

"This announcement today recognizes that 'Empire' actor Jussie Smollett took advantage of the pain and anger of racism to promote his career. I'm left hanging my head and asking why. Why would anyone, especially an African-American man, use the symbolism of a noose to make false accusations?"

Johnson was angry at Smollett. He was angry at the outsized attention this case got when Chicago's daily homicides go largely unnoticed on the national stage. And he was clearly, forcefully, justifiably angry at the way people from high-ranking Democratic politicians to noise-making nobodies on Twitter accepted Smollett's claims at face value without first letting police investigators do their job.

Kudos to the Chicago Police Department for handling a ferociously difficult case with compassion and professionalism. It's a standard we should all strive to meet when the next temptation to cast swift judgment comes along.

All the president's pronouns

Smollett

y some scientific measures, Donald Trump's presidency is not an aberration but part of a long-running trend. In his use of language, Trump is off the charts in his absence of analytical statements, as well as his expressions of confidence. Both of those tendencies are correlated with success in politics.

A trend toward less analysis and more confidence has been going on for a century, according to researchers who are using a technique created a few years ago by psychologist James Pennebaker at the University of Texas. He created a program that analyzes large bodies of text and counts the different kinds of connector words—pronouns, prepositions, articles and auxiliary verbs (like "is," "have," "does"). He and colleagues found they could draw inferences from the way people used those words—about whether they were likely to succeed in school, and whether they were of higher or lower status than those they were addressing.

People with a lot of confidence assume higher status in their expressions—mainly in their use of pronouns. Confident people favor "we" and "you" while the meeker tend to use "I." We're more likely to follow someone who says "We should go this way" than one who says "I think this might be a good way to go," Pennebaker says-and that's true whether or not anyone has any idea which way we should go.

We are, he said, suckers for people who sound confident. And we are also suckers, he said, for simple, storytelling language over analytic language. People want to hear about policy, but we gravitate toward simple solutions, preferably with slogans.

Psychologists and linguists became intrigued with Trump's elocution from the time he started to rise to prominence in the 2016 primary debates. Trump's lack of analytical language was striking; he never used if-then statements, said Pennebaker.

Pennebaker said he learned to measure analytical language by

studying college admissions essays of students at the University of Texas. There's a kind of spectrum of language use, he said. The more often people use articles and prepositions, the less they use pronouns and auxiliary verbs. The students who favored articles and prepositions did better in college, he said, because these demonstrate analytical thinking.

The more analytic essays sounded more formal, he said, with a student saying things like, "After careful comparison I've found five reasons to choose the University of Texas." The less analytical essays were more personal: "Ever since I was 6 years old I knew I wanted to be a psychologist."

Lack of analytical language doesn't necessarily signal low intelligence, said Pennebaker. Listeners and readers relate to simple language, and good writers and orators give people what they like. In almost every presidential election since 1980 (when debate transcripts were first available), the candidate with less analytical speech and writing won, with the exception of Bill Clinton, who was more analytical than his rivals.

The researchers identified confident language patterns with a series of experiments using real emails that subjects sent to people they considered higher, lower or similar status to themselves, as well as experiments in which people were designated to be leaders or followers.

Barack Obama was often criticized for using the word "I" too often, Pennebaker said, though he used it less than his predecessors and less than Mr. Trump. Pundits critical of Obama assumed the use of the first person revealed a self-centered attitude, but that isn't necessarily the case. A statement like "I feel there might be a problem with our relationship" shows an understanding that there are other perspectives and that we're each privy to only our own. I might see a problem with our relationship, while you might think our relationship is fine, or perhaps you didn't realize we were in a relationship at all.

By FAYE FLAM

Bloomberg News

Faye Flam is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. She has written for the Economist, the New York Times, the Washington Post, Psychology Today, Science and other publications. She has a degree in geophysics from the California Institute of Technology.



Then there are what Pennebaker calls the "sledgehammer" verbs—"I changed." "I blocked." "I won." When Obama used these, he said, "it felt like a slap in the face." But the program showed that Obama was a relatively light user of "I," and a much heavier user of the confidence-projecting "you" and "we."

When the researchers looked back into the long history of presidential writings, press conferences, debates and speeches, the result, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, showed steady decrease in analytical language starting in the era of Teddy Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson.

Obama is no exception to the trend. His language was very low in analytic content. He used simplicity to inspire people to think we can make headway against complex problems like race relations and access to health care. Trump takes the trend a step further, and employs a different style, with phrases that stick in the mind—from "Lock her up" to "Build the wall."

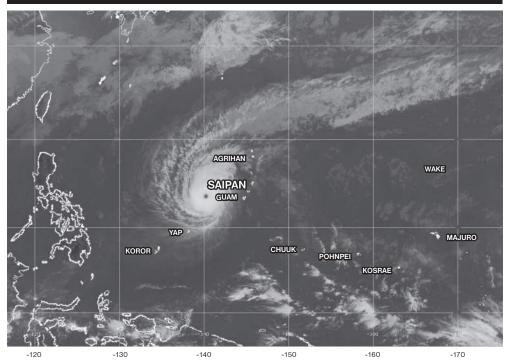
Is this some sort of slide into idiocracy? It probably reflects changes in technology, with radio and then television and then social media reshaping the way candidates speak to the public, as well as shifting the kinds of people most likely to win elections. The good news: It may not be possible to get any less analytic or more confident than Trump. The trend could have run its course.

12 TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2019 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN								
TODAY WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY FRIDAY		SATURDAY				
<u>कुं</u> : कुं:		<u>ښ:</u>	<u>ښ:</u>	<u> </u>				
Partly sunny with isolated showers. Southeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolate showers.				
86° 77°	87º 77º	87º 77º	87° 77°	87° 77°				

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:53 AM, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180

Typhoon Wutip is sitting stationary at about 13N and 141E, 275 miles west of Guam. In the Marianas, skies are cloudy and radar shows mainly isolated showers near and west of the islands. Southeast winds are still fresh to strong, and seas are 9 to 10 feet at the buoys.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA ▲ ▼·						
Guam and Rota	Guam and Rota Partly Cloudy					
Palau	Partly Cloudy	84° / 76°				
Yap	Yap Showers					
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	85° / 79°				
Pohnpei	Sunny	85° / 78°				
Kosrae	Sunny	85° / 78°				
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	84° / 80°				

iviajuro	Partily Cloudy	84 / 80
AROUND TH	E GLOBE	≜ ♥°F
Auckland	Sunny	70° / 57°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	55° / 27°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	76° / 64°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	77° / 64°
London	Sunny	64°/39°
Los Angeles	Sunny	67° / 51°
Manila	Mostly Sunny	90° / 72°
Melbourne	Sunny	84° / 64°
Miami	Thunderstorm	77° / 70°
New York	Sunny	39° / 21°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	57° / 48°
Paris	Sunny	59° / 36°
Busan	Cloudy	55° / 45°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	59° / 45°
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	68° / 53°
San Francisco	Rain	56° / 53°
Seoul	Cloudy	54° / 34°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	54° / 39°
Washington, DC	Cloudy	50° / 30°



Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- ■*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIP	AN HARBOR TO	DAY FEET
01:15 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.53
06:47 AM	LOW TIDE	0.92
12:25 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.80
7:55 PM	LOW TIDE	0.18

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:36 AM	6:23 PM
Wednesday	6:35 AM	6:24 PM
Thursday	6:35 AM	6:24 PM
Friday	6:34 AM	6:24 PM
Saturday	6:33 AM	6:24 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	11:39 AM	-
Wednesday	12:46 AM	12:26 PM	-
Thursday	1:38 AM	1:14 PM	-
Friday	2:30 AM	2:03 PM	-
Saturday	3:19 AM	2:52 PM	-

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È-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIG	HT S	CHED	ULE AS	OF JAN	UARY	21, 20	19
	DEPAR	TURES			ARRI	VALS	
SAIPAN-GUA	M (GUM))		GUAM (GUM	I)-SAIPAN	l	
UA117 UA105	9:15am 6:25pm		Daily 2, 4	UA174 UA104	7:30am 4:50pm		Daily 2, 4
SAIPAN-BUS	AN (PUS)		BUSAN (PUS	S)-SAIPAN	l	
7C3451	3:15am	-	Daily	7C3452		2:00am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
				7C3452	10:05pm	2:00am+1	1
SAIPAN-SEO	UL (ICN)			SEOUL (ICN)	-SAIPAN		
0Z626 0Z626	2:10am 2:50am		1 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C3402 0Z625 0Z625		3:30pm 1:00am+1 1:40am+1	Daily 7 1, 2, 3, 4,
7C3403 7C3401	4:35am 4:30pm		Daily Daily	7C3404		3:40am+1	5, 6 Daily
SAIPAN-SHA	NGHAI (I	PVG)		SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAI	PAN	
3U8648	6:10am	-	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	-	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HAN	IGZHOU ((HGH)		HANGZHOU	(HGH)-SA	IPAN	
JD396 JD396	7:30am 4:50pm	11:00am 7:55pm	1 4	JD395 JD395	8:05am 9:35pm	3:30pm 5:00am+1	4 7
SAIPAN-GUA	NGZHOU	I (CAN)		GUANGZHO	u (CAN)-S	AIPAN	
3U8646	4:30am		2, 6			2:40am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJ	ING (PEI	K)		BEIJING (PE	K)-SAIPA	N	
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MAN	IILA (MN	L)		MANILA (MI	NL)-SAIPA	M	
UA117/183 UA117/183	9:15am 9:15am		2, 5 via GUM 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA182/174 PR110/UA174			3, 6 via GUM Daily via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	UA192/174	10:30pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA105/183 UA105/183	4:45pm 4:45pm		2 via GUM 4 via GUM	UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HON	IG KONG	(HKG)		HONG KONG	i (HKG)-S	AIPAN	
HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
0Z626/721 0Z626/721		11:50am 11:50am	1 via ICN 2, 3, 4, 5, 6,	0Z722/625		1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
110.40	Г 4Г	0.40	7 via ICN	HX076		12:15am+1	
UO43 UA117/159	5:45am 9:15am	8:40am 11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 7 1, 2, 3, 4, 5,	U042 U042		1:45am+1 4:25am+1	7 2. 4. 6
UA105/159		11:00pm	6 via GUM 2, 4 via GUM	UA116/174 UA116/174	11:45pm		2, 4 via GUM 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
LEGEND: Days:	Monday (1)), Tuesday (2),	Wednesday (3)	Thursday (4), Fri	day (5), Sati	urday (6) and S	

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAD MADIANAS AID INC

		STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
SAIPAN T	O ROTA			1203 1204	9:00AM 10:00AM	9:15AM 10:15AM	Daily Daily		
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily		
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily		
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily		
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily		
ROTA TO	SAIPAN			1209 1210	3:00PM 4:00PM	3:15PM 4:15PM	Daily Daily		
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1210	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily		
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily		
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily				. ,		
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily		O SAIPAN				
ROTA TO	GUAM			FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY		
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2102 2103	7:30AM 8:30AM	7:45AM 8:45AM	Daily Daily		
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily	2103	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily		
CHAM TO	DOTA		,	2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily		
GUAM TO				2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily		
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily		
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily	2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily		
SAIPAN T	O TINIAN			2109 2110	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily		
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2110	3:30PM 4:30PM	3:45PM 4:45PM	Daily Daily		
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily		
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily		

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2019 **13** SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Business

Consumer goods companies preparing for climate change impact

(AP)—Companies behind some of the bestknown consumer productsfrom soaps to sodas-are beginning to factor climate change into their business

Employee prefers data to dealing with public

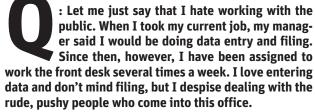
YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE

Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of "Secrets to Winning at Office Politics." Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.you-

rofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.



I must be a pretty good actress, because my manager always says that I'm great with customers. I've never told him that they drive me absolutely crazy. To get away from all this interaction, I'm thinking about taking a course in medical coding or billing. Does that sound like a good plan?

A: Like many people, you selected a position that matched your personality, only to see it morph into something entirely different. While some folks might actually prefer difficult customers to a steady diet of data, the change has obviously made this job a bad fit for you.

You are certainly to be commended for making an effort to treat visitors well despite your strong negative feelings. That's not an easy act to pull off. But even if no one ever notices the pent-up anger behind your surface cordiality, maintaining that charade has got to be exhausting.

The stress of feeling one way and acting another is not sustainable for long, so you're wise to start looking for a less interactive job. But before shelling out cash for a training course, take the time to explore a variety of options. In the rush to escape a bad work situation, people often make impulsive decisions which they later come to regret.

Q: "Jeff" and "Amy" both work for me. Recently, I made the mistake of telling Jeff that I was unhappy with Amy's performance. He repeated my comments, and now Amy is justifiably angry. How can I recover from this screw-up?

A: First, kudos to you for recognizing that managers should never discuss one employee with another. But if you also failed to tell Amy about these issues directly, then you owe her both an apology and some feedback.

For example: "Amy, I want to apologize for discussing my concerns about your work with Jeff instead of talking to you. That was inexcusable, and it won't happen again. However, we do need to figure out why your project is behind schedule."

Your lapse in judgment, while unfortunate, does not exempt Amy from a necessary discussion about her performance issues.

Dear Readers: With very mixed feelings, I need to let you know that this will be the last Your Office Coach column. For 13 years, I have thoroughly enjoyed learning about your workplace challenges and offering possible solutions. Your stories about horrid bosses, aggravating coworkers, frustrating job searches and other career dilemmas have helped countless others who are dealing with similar problems.

Unfortunately, both work and personal demands have made it increasingly difficult to find sufficient time for writing. My views on many career topics can still be found on my website at www.vourofficecoach.com. Questions can also be submitted there, and I will try to personally answer as many as possible. I do hope you have enjoyed reading this column as much as I have enjoyed writing it.

— Marie McIntyre



In this Thursday, Feb. 14, 2019, file photo, Nestle's logo is displayed on a window, during the 2018 full-year results press conference of the food and drinks giant Nestle, in Vevey.

published Monday.

The survey of 16 major corporations by nonprofit group CDP found that many are working to lower their carbon emissions, prepare for the effects of global warming on their supply chain and respond to growing environmental consciousness among customers.

Examples include brewer AB InBev's efforts to develop a variety of barley that needs less water and Unilever adjusting its detergent formulas so they work at the lower "eco" temperature settings on modern washing machines,

equation, according to a report the London-based group said.

"We were surprised how much these companies were aligning themselves with changes in consumer preferences," said Carole Ferguson, the report's lead author.

This includes chasing trends such as veganism, a small but growing factor in the market that's driven by people who shun animal products for ethical or health reasons, but also because they have larger carbon footprints. PepsiCo's recent acquisition of Health Warrior, a maker of plant-based nutrition bars, is a typical example where a large company has snapped up a small brand to fill a niche it didn't yet cover.

Such purchases help companies bolster their green credentials at a time when they're beginning to feel the heat of climate activism. Consumer goods account for about a third of greenhouse gas emissions, meaning companies that make them play a key role in efforts to keep global warming below 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit) by the end of the century.

But manufacturers like Nestle, Coca-Cola and Procter & Gamble also face growing scrutiny from investors who want to know what business risks they face from climate change before deciding whether to buy their stock, Ferguson said.

CDP ranked the companies surveyed according to how strongly their business is threatened by climate change, what they are doing to prepare for it and how much information they disclose to the market.

"Climate change is going to be disruptive to revenues and costs," Ferguson told The Associated Press. "What I would want to know as an investor is what kind of strategy they have going forward."

In general, CDP found that European makers of fast-moving consumer goods are ahead of U.S. rivals in preparing for climate change—a disparity also seen in other sectors, such as automotive or oil and gas. France's Danone came first in the food and drinks sector, while Kraft Heinz came last out of nine; similarly Parisbased cosmetics company L'Oreal ranked second in the household and personal care sector, against New Yorkbased rival Estee Lauder, which came last out of seven.

Possible reasons for this disparity include stricter regulation from the European Union, Ferguson said.

Consumer concern over plastic waste recently spurred strict new EU rules on packaging, the report noted.

Congress mulls cap on what Medicare enrollees pay for drugs

WASHINGTON (AP)— With health care a top issue for American voters, Congress may actually be moving toward doing something this year to address the high cost of prescription drugs.

President Donald Trump, Democrats trying to retire him in 2020, and congressional incumbents of both parties all say they want action. Democrats and Republicans are far apart on whether to empower Medicare to negotiate prices, but there's enough overlap to allow for agreement in other areas.

High on the list is capping out-of-pocket costs for participants in Medicare's popular Part D prescription drug program, which has a loophole that's left some beneficiaries with bills rivaling a mortgage payment.

The effort to cap out-ofpocket costs in Medicare's prescription plan is being considered as part of broader legislation to restrain drug prices.

Limits on high medical and drug bills are already part of most employer-based and pri-

vate insurance. They're called "out-of-pocket maximums" and are required under the Obama-era health law for innetwork services. But Medicare has remained an outlier even as prices have soared for potent new brand-name drugs, as well as older mainstays such as insulin.

"The issue has my attention," said Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, which oversees Medicare. "Out-of-pocket costs are a concern of ours, particularly at the catastrophic level." His committee has summoned CEOs from seven pharmaceutical companies to a hearing Tuesday.

While Grassley said he hasn't settled on a specific approach, the committee's top Democrat, Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden, recently introduced legislation that would cap out-of-pocket costs at about \$2,650 for Medicare beneficiaries taking brand-name drugs. One co-sponsor is Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar, a Democratic presidential candidate.

In Des Moines, Iowa, retired special education teacher Gail Orcutt is battling advanced lung cancer due to radon exposure. Although she has Medicare prescription coverage, she paid \$2,600 in January for her cancer medication and will pay about \$750 monthly for the rest of the year. She said it cost more last year for a different drug—\$3,200 initially and then about \$820 monthly.

Someday her current drug may stop working, said Orcutt, and then she'd have to go on a different medication. Coalition on Health Care is What if that is two or three times what I'm paying now?" she said. "It's not sustainable. The country needs more problem-solving for the common good and not the corporate bottom line."

At a recent House Ways and Means Committee hearing, three expert witnesses with varied policy views concurred on limiting drug costs for Medicare beneficiaries. "This is still the only program that does not provide that protection to its beneficiaries," tes-

tified economist Joe Antos of the business-oriented American Enterprise Institute. The House committee also oversees Medicare.

Before the hearing, the committee's chairman and top Republican released a joint statement unusual in polarized times: "We agree that the time is now to take meaningful action to lower the cost of prescription drugs in the U.S. health care system," said Reps. Richard Neal, D-Mass., and Kevin Brady, R-Texas.

John Rother of the National a longtime participant in national health care debates, and his organization represents a cross-section of interest groups. "There is a common recognition of a problem, and also a sense that they want to move something this year," he said.

At issue is the Medicare prescription benefit's "catastrophic" protection. Experts say it was intended as a safeguard but isn't working that way, either for beneficiaries or taxpayers.

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Nation

CA man cleared after 40 years in prison gets \$21M

SIMI VALLEY, (AP)-The city of Simi Valley, California, has reached a \$21 million settlement with a man wrongly imprisoned for nearly 40 years in the killing of his girlfriend and her 4-year-old son.

Craig Coley was released in 2017 after he was pardoned by then-Gov. Jerry Brown, who said DNA evidence and re-investigation proved Coley's innocence.

Simi Valley officials said Saturday that the agreement would mitigate long, costly and unnecessary legal proceedings, the Los Angeles Times reported.

"While no amount of money can make up for what happened to Mr. Coley, settling this case is the right thing to do for Mr. Coley and our community," City Manager Eric Levitt said in a statement. The city will pay about \$4.9 million and the rest is expected to be paid by insurance and other sources.

The state last year approved a separate, nearly \$2 million payment for Coley. He is now 71.



bars after he was wrongly convicted of killing 24-year-old Rhonda Wicht of Simi Valley and her son in 1978.

torney asked Brown to pardon him because forensic tests showed Coley's DNA was not on the victim's bedsheet, an alibi for the time of the slayings and investigators later disproved testimony from an eyewitness who placed him at the scene.

His parents died while he

2 men wounded shooting

New Orleans police say a female bystander was fatally shot as a man being ejected from a Bourbon Street eatery grabbed a security guard's gun and fired it several times as they struggled. Police say the man also shot himself and the guard. A police statement says 37-year-old Louis Barnes was arrested after the shooting early Sunday and underwent shoulder surgery, while the guard had surgery for a neck wound. Police say Barnes faces charges of second-degree murder and attempted murder. It's not known if he has a lawver. Rosaleen Brown tells The New Orleans Advocate her friend Julie Couvillon was killed. The 36-year-old nurse died at a hospital. Police spokesman Juan Barnes says a third man was also hurt, but not by a bullet, outside the fried chicken-anddaiquiri restaurant.

California news SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—

the strike at the Oakland Li-

brary when a car pulled up and the driver pulled a gun, demanding their camera. The crew surrendered the equipment and began walking away. The news station says the suspect then shot the guard, Matt Meredith, in the leg. The guard was taken to the hospital. His condition wasn't immediately known. KPIX says the suspect fled the scene and is at large. No

In this Feb. 15, 2018 file photo,

Craig Coley, right, accompa-

nied by his attorney's Ron Kaye,

center, and Nick Brustin, left,

talks with reporters in Sacra-

was in prison after mortgag-

ing their home to pay his le-

Ron Kaye, an attorney

representing Coley, said the

settlement offers some clo-

sure and vindication for his

client, though no amount of

money can compensate him

for the life he missed while

"He now can live the rest of

his life, which we hope will

be really well into the future,

with the security he deserves,"

Soon after Coley was par-

doned, a judge declared him

factually innocent. Simi Val-

ley police have not arrested

anyone else in the killings.

mento, Calif.

gal bills.

imprisoned.

Kave said.

Tennessee police officer killed by hitand-run driver

other information was imme-

diately released.

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn.

(AP)—Tennessee officials say an officer who graduated from the police academy last month has been killed by a hit-and-run driver while checking on a hazard in a roadway. A statement from the Chattanooga Police Department says 38-yearold Nicholas Galinger was struck Saturday night while on a call with his field training officer. He was outside the patrol vehicle when a passing SUV hit him. Police say they are searching for the driver of a 2017 or 2018 Honda CRV. Police say Galinger was taken to a hospital, but died from his injuries. Chattanooga Police Chief David Roddy says the community "lost not just an officer. We lost a son, a father, a friend, and a protector." Anyone with information on the driver or vehicle is urged to call police.

The city's police chief and which contained DNA from Coley spent 39 years behind an unknown man. Coley had Ventura County's district at-

Tornado death confirmed as violent storms smack the South

COLUMBUS, Miss. (AP)— Weekend storms raked parts of the Southeast, leaving deaths and injuries in their wake as a tornado smashed into a commercial district in a small Mississippi city and drenching rains fed a rising flood threat.

A woman was killed when a tornado hit Columbus, Mississippi, and a man died when he drove into floodwaters in Tennessee, officials said.

Columbus Mayor Robert Smith Sr. said 41-year-old Ashley Glynell Pounds of Tupelo and her husband were renovating a house Saturday evening, and when the husband went to get them something to eat, the building collapsed in the storm and killed her.

Smith said 12 other people were injured, but the injuries did not appear to be major. City spokesman Joe Dillon said the tornado also seriously damaged a school and two community center buildings.

"There was pretty extensive damage," Dillon said Sunday, a day after the Columbus twister struck. "But the streets today have been filled with workers and volunteers, all working hard to clean up the mess."

In Knox County, Tennessee, officials said a man died after his vehicle became submerged in high water.

Saturday afternoon's tornado in Columbus was confirmed on radar, said meteorologist Anna Wolverton with the National Weather Service in Jackson. She told The Associated Press that experts were dispatched Sunday to the east Mississippi city of about 23,000 people to gauge the tornado's intensity. Officials said a second, smaller twister damaged a mobile home and a shed and snapped trees in a small community in the region that same afternoon as severe storms rolled through.

At First Pentecostal Church in Columbus, the Rev. Steve Blaylock said the building was "a total loss," with a wall pushed in, holes in the roof and substantial water damage. He and his congregants tried to salvage what they could on the morning after the storm. But he said they still held a Sunday prayer service and even went ahead with a scheduled baptism, using a borrowed portable baptismal pool.

"We will rebuild. We've got a good church here," Blaylock said. "It'll be a testimony of God."

Residents of one street on the east side of Columbus were out early Sunday morning with chain saws, clearing away branches of the many trees that had snapped or were uprooted in the storm. Metal siding and roofing materials were scattered throughout

the neighborhood of older homes. While the houses generally remained standing, sheds and outbuildings were mostly demolished.

Lee Lawrence, who said he has been selling used cars for decades in Columbus, told The AP that four buildings on his car lot were destroyed. He said trees toppled across vehicles and car windows were blown out.

Lawrence said he was at home getting ready to take a bath when the storm struck.

"The wind all of a sudden just got so strong and it was raining so much you could hardly see out the door, and I could hear a roaring. Evidently it came close," he said, speaking with AP in a phone interview.

"It will be a start-over deal," Lawrence said. "I can't say it will come back better or stronger, but we'll come back."

A photographer working for The AP in Columbus said some antique cars on Lawrence's lot were resting in the debris of a destroyed building a nearby pet grooming business appeared now to be mostly twisted piles of metal. A printing shop had been speared by a pipe.

Elsewhere around South, homes, highways, parks and bridges were flooded or put out of commission amid the heavy rains and severe storms.

News outlets report that water rescues have been performed in some Middle Tennessee counties.

Interstate 40 near the Tennessee line with North Carolina was closed by a rockslide, one of the dozens of roads and highways shut down throughout the region, transportation officials said.

Officials said a mudslide destroyed a Subway restaurant in Signal Mountain, Tennessee. No injuries were reported.

In West Virginia, authorities have evacuated 11 families in the southern part of the state after low-lying areas flooded from heavy rains. Workers cleaned up from mudslides and high wind warnings remained in effect Sunday for much of the state. More than 50,000 customers were without power at one point, emergency officials said, warning driving would be difficult in high winds and more power lines could fall.

In Bruce, Mississippi, rivers broke flood stage and flash floods poured into homes and businesses. News outlets report that officials in Grenada, Mississippi, declared a local state of emergency after dozens of streets and homes flooded. A 6-mile (9-kilometer) stretch of the Natchez Trace Parkway was closed in Mississippi after water covered part of the road.

ACROSS THE NATION

Bystander killed, in Bourbon Street NEW ORLEANS (AP)—

crew's camera stolen, guard shot

A CBS affiliate in San Francisco says its crew was robbed and a security guard was shot while covering the Oakland teachers strike on Sunday. KPIX says a reporter and a photographer were gathering interviews about

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2019 **15** SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Asia

Okinawa referendum rejects relocation for US military base

TOKYO (AP)—The residents of Japan's southwestern island region of Okinawa have rejected a relocation plan for a U.S. military base that was put to a referendum, increasing pressure on the national government to change its stance that the facility will be built no matter what.

The results of Sunday's vote showed 72 percent opposed the plan for the Marines air base being built on a landfill in coastal Henoko. Support for the relocation plan totaled 19 percent.

The referendum is not legally binding but underlines Okinawans' sentiment on the relocation plan.

Henoko is to replace another base on the island in Futenma that is in a more residential area and has long been criticized as noisy and dangerous. The U.S. military, while declining comment on the referendum, has said the Henoko agreement is needed for regional security.

Critics of Henoko say wildlife such dugong and coral reefs will be hurt. Many people in Okinawa want Futenma closed but think the rest of Japan should help by sharing in the burden of hosting U.S. troops.

Okinawa Gov. Denny Ta-

maki, who spearheaded the referendum, said the results must be respected.

"This holds extremely important meaning," he said Monday after the tally came in.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told reporters early Monday that the government accepted the feelings of Okinawa's people but stressed the Henoko plan won't get changed. The government has repeatedly said the relocation plan will move ahead, regardless of the referendum.

Nevertheless, the referendum will add momentum to Tamaki's renewed efforts against the U.S. bases. The sentiments have resonated not only with the residents of the subtropical islands of Okinawa but also the rest of Japan and internationally.

Tamaki has said he hopes to deliver the results of the referendum to U.S. President Donald Trump.

Government spokesman Yoshihide Suga reiterated Abe's view, telling reporters that Futenma remains dangerous and the relocation is needed to close Futenma. He said he hoped to discuss with Tamaki what he might have in mind for Futenma.

Suga also said the govern-

win understanding from Okinawa residents.

The relocation plan has its beginnings in 1995, when outrage erupted against U.S. service members over the rape of a 12-year-old girl. Washington

ment will step up efforts to also agreed to transfer some personnel to the U.S. Pacific territory of Guam.

> Nearly 1.16 million residents were eligible to vote in Sunday's referendum.

Although Okinawa makes up less than 1 percent of Japan's land space, it houses about half of the 54,000 American troops stationed in Japan, and is home to 64 percent of the land used by the U.S. bases in the country under a bilateral security treaty.

Complicating matters is the historical suffering of Okinawa, where huge civilian casualties were recorded in the closing days of World War II. The bloodiest battles were fought on Okinawa. Okinawa also remained under U.S. occupation and was not returned to Japan until 1972.



People take a look at a copy of a local newspaper reporting a referendum in Naha, Okinawa, Japan, Sunday, Feb. 24, 2019.

Hijacking foiled on Bangladesh-Dubai flight, suspect killed

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—A passenger flight made an emergency landing Sunday in Bangladesh after an armed man attempted to hijack the plane, and he was later killed in an exchange of gunfire with military commandos, officials said. The suspect asked to speak to the prime minister before dying from his injuries.

The flight, operated by state-run Biman Bangladesh Airlines, left the capital, Dhaka, at 4:35 p.m. heading for Dubai via Chittagong.

The pilot made the emergency landing in Chittagong about 40 minutes after takeoff, after a crew member reported "suspicious behavior" by the man, said Rezaul Karim, an official with the Bangladeshi military's interservice public affairs office.

All 143 passengers and seven crew members aboard the Boeing 737-800 were safely evacuated, Air Vice Marshal Mofidur Rahman said at a news conference broadcast live on Somoy TV.

The commandos fired at the suspect after he shot at them when they asked him to surrender, army Maj. Gen. Motiur Rahman told reporters, according to ATN TV news. He said that the suspect was carrying a pistol, but did not say where the shooting took place.

The army official said the suspect, a Bangladeshi whose name has not been released, asked to speak to his wife and to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The suspect died before reaching the hospital, he said.

The suspect appeared to be "mentally imbalanced," said Air Vice Marshal M. Naim Hassan, chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority. "I am saying this because of his behavior. He wanted to talk to the prime minister."

Before the suspect was pronounced dead, Rahman had described him as a "terrorist" and said that he had been arrested and was being questioned

Bangladeshi soldiers could be seen during the live TV broadcast taking positions inside Shah Amanat International Airport in Chittagong, 252 kilometers (156 miles) southeast of Dhaka.

Hanoi Postcard: Children hope to give Kim comradely welcome

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)— Children at a kindergarten in Hanoi, some in Korean traditional "Hanbok" dress, have been practicing singing and dancing, hoping to show off their talents to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un when he comes to town this week for his second summit with President Donald Trump.

Elsewhere in the Vietnam-Korea Friendship Kindergarten, students have been assembling picture montages on maps of Vietnam and the Koreas. In another classroom, children were coloring in Vietnamese and North Korean flags with which they hope to greet Kim.

"We really want for Mr. Kim Jong Un, the great leader of the Korean people, to visit our school," said Ngo Thi Minh Ha, the school's rector.

Apple-cheeked youngsters in traditional national garb meeting a paternal leader is a mainstay of old-style communist iconography,

North Korea is the closest thing left to an old-style communist state.

But the ties that once bound Vietnam to North Korea in their fight against the U.S. have long since frayed. These days, South Korea is the Korea most Vietnamese look to, as evidenced by Vietnam's many billboards for the goods and services of companies such as Samsung, Lotte and Hyundai, and the massive amount of trade and investment coming from Seoul.

The kindergarten, however, swims against the tide of history. It was built in 1978, three years after the end of the Vietnam War, a gift from the North Korean government, which also supplied it with toys, musical instruments, tables, chairs and cookware, according to Hoang Thi Thanh, the school's rector from 2002 to 2013.

The school initially had just four classrooms accommodating 120 children, but according to Thanh, "I was very happy and proud to be one of the first teachers of the school, because it was probably the most beautiful school in Hanoi at that time."

It's now a three-story complex with a large courtyard and a student body of 470 in a busy residential neighborhood with run-down, 1970s-era apartment buildings.

The students learn about North Korea, its leaders, landmarks and culture, lessons that are supplemented by a sister relationship with a kindergarten in Pyongyang with which visits are exchanged each year.

According to Thanh, there was a political hiccup in 2010, when the North Korean government proposed to rename the school after Kim Il Sung, North Korea's founding father. Vietnam, whose ruling communist party has always favored collective leadership over personalized rule, demurred. A compromise was reached in which two classrooms were named after Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il—the grandfather and father, respectively, of Kim Jong Un—while a kindergarten classroom in Pyongyang was named after Vietnamese revolutionary hero Ho Chi Minh.

Ha, the rector, hopes Kim and Trump can achieve an agreement, and echoes the common sentiment that maybe Vietnam has something to teach North Korea, saying she hopes "the Korean people will enjoy peace and like the Vietnamese people, the Korean nation will embark on a reform process for development and prosperity."

For local parents, however, education rather than politics is the main concern.

"I had checked out some kindergartens near my house, but I decided to send my son here, because this school has good facilities and good teachers," Trieu Phuong Nhung said as she took her 4-year-old son to school.

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World

Maduro opponents boost military rhetoric in Venezuela crisis

CUCUTA, Colombia (AP)— Opposition leader Juan Guaido has called on the international community to consider "all options" to resolve Venezuela's crisis, a dramatic escalation in rhetoric that echoes comments from the Trump administration hinting at potential U.S. military involvement.

Guaido's comments late Saturday came after a tumultuous day that saw President Nicolas Maduro's forces fire tear gas and buckshot on activists trying to deliver humanitarian aid in violent clashes that left two people dead and some 300 injured.

For weeks, the U.S. and regional allies had been amassing emergency food and medical kits on Venezuela's borders in anticipation of carrying out a "humanitarian avalanche" by land and sea to undermine Maduro's rule.

With activists failing to penetrate government blockades and deliver the aid, Guaido announced late Saturday that he would escalate his appeal to the international community—beginning with a meeting Monday in Colombia's capital with U.S. Vice President Mike Pence on the sidelines of an emergency summit of leaders of the so-called Lima Group to discuss Venezuela's crisis.

He said he would urge the international community to keep "all options open" in the fight to restore Venezuela's democracy, using identical language to that of President Donald Trump, who in his public statements has repeatedly refused to rule out force and reportedly even

VATICAN CITY (AP)—

Pope Francis closed out his

extraordinary summit on pre-

venting clergy sex abuse by

vowing Sunday to confront

abusers with "the wrath of

God" felt by the faithful, end

the cover-ups by their superi-

ors and prioritize the victims

of this "brazen, aggressive and

But his failure to offer a

concrete action plan to hold

bishops accountable when

they failed to protect their

flocks from predators disap-

pointed survivors, who had

expected more from the first-

destructive evil."



Bolivarian National Police patrol on motorcycles through Urena, Venezuela, near the border with Colombia, Sunday, Feb. 24, 2019.

secretly pressed aides as early as 2017 about the possibility of a military incursion.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has also stepped up the belligerent rhetoric, saying on CNN's "State of the Union" on Sunday that Maduro's "days are numbered."

Republican Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida, who visited the border last week and has Trump's ear on policy toward Venezuela, tweeted out pictures of anti-American strongmen including Panama's Manuel Noriega, Libya's Moammar

"Brothers and sisters, today

we find ourselves before a

manifestation of brazen, ag-

gressive and destructive evil,"

Gadhafi and Romania's Nicolae Ceausescu at the height of their power and then tragic downfall—the not so subtle suggestion being that Maduro himself could suffer a similar fate.

A close Guadio ally, Julio Borges, the exiled leader of congress who is Guaido's ambassador to the Lima Group, was even more explicit in urging a military option. "We are going to demand an escalation of diplomatic pressure ... and the use of force against Nicolas Maduro's dictatorship," he said Sunday.

main an open wound. Pope vows to end abuse cover-ups but victims disappointed also exist where we are and in

> the pope said. In a sign of new measures being taken, the Vatican announced that it would soon issue a new law creating a child protection policy for Vatican City State that covers the Holy See bureaucracy.

The Associated Press reported last vear that the headquarters of the Catholic Church had no such policy, even though it insisted in 2011 that local churches have one and told the United Nations five years ago that a policy for Vatican City was in the works.

"It's not like there is an enormous diffusion of these crimes inside Vatican City State or the Curia," summit moderator the Rev. Federico Lombardi said. "But since we insist that we need laws and rigorous procedure (elsewhere), they should our institutions, starting with the Vatican City State.'

In his final remarks to the summit, Francis noted that the vast majority of sexual abuse happens in the family. And he offered a global review of the broader societal problem of sexual tourism and online pornography, in a bid to contextualize what he said was once a taboo subject.

But he said the sexual abuse of children becomes even more scandalous when it occurs in the Catholic Church. "for it is utterly incompatible with her moral authority and ethical credibility."

Francis summoned the bishops from around the world to the four-day meeting to impress upon them that clergy sex abuse and cover-ups aren't just a problem in some countries but a global problem that threatens the very mission of the Catholic Church.

It's a prospect that analysts warn risks fracturing a hardwon coalition of Latin American nations who've come together to pressure Maduro's socialist government. Most Latin American governments, even conservative ones like those in neighboring Colombia and Brazil, are on the record opposing a military solution and would face huge dissent should they back any military action led by the U.S., whose interventions in the region during the Cold War re-

"These governments know they would face a huge tide of internal opinion greatly offended by a U.S.-led invasion for historical and political reasons," said Ivan Briscoe, the Latin America director for the Crisis Group, a Belgiumbased think tank.

It also could split what has until been bipartisan support for the Trump administration's policy toward Venezuela.

Sen. Chris Murphy of Connecticut, a senior Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, over the weekend warned about a "potential trap being set by Trump."

humanitarian "Cheering convoys sounds like the right thing to do, but what if it's not about the aid? What if the real agenda is laying a pretext for war?" Murphy said on Twitter.

At the same time, though polls say Venezuelans overwhelmingly want Maduro to resign, almost an equal number reject the possibility of a foreign invasion to resolve the political impasse.

Resting at the foot of the Simon Bolivar bridge as work crews in Colombia began removing debris left by the unrest, Claudia Aguilar said she would support a military invasion but worries it would lead to more bloodshed.

The 29-year-old pregnant mother of three said she crossed illegally into Colombia on Sunday to buy a bag of rice and pasta for her family after Maduro ordered a partial closure of the border two days earlier.

"We're with fear, dear God, of what will happen," she said standing near the dirt trail she took to sneak across the border. "More blood, more deaths. The president of Venezuela does whatever he wants."

In addition to weakening multilateral pressure against Maduro, analysts say the opposition saber rattling also risks undermining Guaido's goal of peeling off support from the military, the country's crucial powerbroker.

The 35-year-old Guaido has won the backing of more than 50 governments around the world since declaring himself interim president at a rally in January, arguing that Maduro's re-election last year was illegitimate because some popular opposition candidates were barred from running.

WORLD BRIEFS

Thousands march to honor slain Russian opposition leader

MOSCOW (AP)—Thousands of people have marched in central Moscow to commemorate Russian opposition figure Boris Nemtsov, who was killed four years ago. Nemtsov was shot on Feb. 27, 2015 as he walked along a bridge near the Kremlin. The killing was a harsh blow to Russians opposed to President Vladimir Putin, depriving them of a charismatic and energetic leader. Activist Nataliya Gryaznyevich said at Sunday's march that "Nemtsov was a very colorful political figure." She said his death "left an empty hole in politics." An officer in the security forces of Chechnya's Kremlin-backed leader Ramzan Kadyrov was convicted of firing the shots that killed Nemtsov and received a 20-year prison term. Four other men convicted of being involved in Nemtsov's slaying received 11 to 19 years.

Animal saved from icy Estonian river turns out to be a wolf

HELSINKI (AP)—Estonian construction workers got the shock of their lives when they found out the animal they saved from an icy river was not a dog but a wolf. Rando

Kartsepp, Robin Sillamae and Erki Vali told the Postimees newspaper they were working at the Sindi dam on the frozen Parnu River in southwestern Estonia when they saw an animal frantically swimming in a maze of ice. They rescued the ice-coated animal and took it to a shelter. A hunter told them it was about a one-year old male wolf suffering from shock and hypothermia. The young wolf recovered after a day and was released back into the wild with a GPS collar. Estonia has an estimated 200 wolves. The grey wolf was voted Estonia's national animal by nature organizations in 2018.

Spain: 2 dead when small plane crashes north of Madrid

MADRID (AP)—Authorities in Spain say that two people have died when a small plane crashed more than 100 kilometers (60 miles) north of Madrid. Emergency services for the region of Castilla y Leon say that both people were passengers on the plane that had taken off from a local airfield. Emergency services were alerted by a witness who saw the plane fall from the sky on Sunday. The cause of the crash is under investigation.

ever global Catholic summit of its kind. Francis delivered his remarks at the end of Mass before 190 Catholic bishops and religious superiors who were summoned to Rome after more abuse scandals sparked a credibility crisis in the Catholic hierarchy and in Francis' own leadership.

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By FOSTER KLUG

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)— The nightmare scenario heading into the second summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un isn't so much "fire and fury" and millions dead. Rather, some experts fear the meeting could result in an ill-considered deal that allows North Korea to get everything it wants while giving up very little, even as the mercurial leaders trumpet a

There's little argument that just sitting down together again in the same room this week in Hanoi is a positive sign for two men who seemed to be flirting with a second Korean War in 2017, and there is, as the White House trumpeted ahead of the summit, "a tremendous opportunity" here to address a monumental problem that's flummoxed generations of policymakers.

blockbuster nuclear success.

But with the stakes so high, a growing chorus of experts highlight a particular risk: that Trump, burned by criticism that the results of his June meeting with Kim in Singapore were vague at best and an outright failure at worst, will ignore his more cautious aides and try to strike a deal that's cobbled together on the fly with little preparatory work.

Why is this potentially dangerous? Because when it comes to North Korean nuclear diplomacy, all deals are not created equal.

A look at some of the anxieties that are swirling ahead of the Hanoi summit:

WORRY NO. 1: A PIECEMEAL DEAL

South Korean papers have been filled with unidentified government sources suggesting that Trump and Kim might strike a deal that stops far short of the road map for the full denuclearization of the North that the United States has long insisted on.

Instead, Kim could agree to give up only part of his arsenal — his intercontinental missiles aimed at America, for instance, or his main nuclear reactor — in return for an easing of harsh sanctions. There's also fear that Trump will eventually orchestrate some sort of drawdown of U.S. troops from South Korea or an extended halt to U.S.-South Korean military drills.

For Trump, such a deal could generate a much-needed rush of "breakthrough" headlines to help distract from swirling investigations in Washington while helping assure his supporters that he's protecting the American mainland.

Kim, for his part, would be taking a huge step toward ce-

menting the North as a nuclear weapons state and, as a bonus, driving a wedge in the U.S.-South Korea alliance that the North maintains is aimed at the overthrow of the Kim family — all without addressing the North's arsenal of shortand mid-range nuclear armed missiles aimed at Seoul, Tokyo and other parts of Asia.

Those in favor of this kind of piecemeal deal say it's simply a matter of accepting reality: North Korea won't give up nukes it sees as crucial to deterring what it calls U.S. hostility, so the wise move is to work to first limit or freeze the program's most worrisome aspects and then work toward total denuclearization.

Skeptics say this would give the North too much in return for too little. They want instead something that first forces Pyongyang to list the particulars of its nuclear program, then allows outsiders to verify the list and see the program demolished.

"Ad hoc deals or piecemeal negotiations absent an agreed-on road map would allow Pyongyang to dictate the terms, pace and duration of the diplomatic process without making a dent in North Korea's nuclear arsenal," Duyeon Kim, a Koreas expert at the Center for a New American Security, recently wrote.

"There is a serious risk of

Trump ad-libbing his way into a bad deal, as he did in Singapore in June 2018, by relinquishing vital bargaining chips that disadvantage U.S. interests and Asian allies' security," she added.

WORRY NO. 2: KIM AND TRUMP ARE TOO ALIGNED

There's a joke being shared by some North Korea experts: Did you hear that Kim Jong Un and Donald Trump both want the same thing from their Hanoi summit? The United States out of South Korea.

Funny or not, the dark humor gets at serious doubts churned up by Trump's repeated public expressions of a deep wariness about the U.S.-South Korea alliance that many in Seoul and Washington see as a lynchpin of Northeast Asian security.

The best example may be Trump's stunning announcement in Singapore of the suspension of annual military drills by Seoul and Washington that North Korea rails against as "invasion preparation."

Trump called the drills "very provocative," mirroring North Korean language.

Although his lieutenants say the removal of American troops isn't on the agenda in Hanoi, Trump has said that he wants to eventually bring home the 28,500 troops stationed in the South. Just this month Trump said: "South Korea — we defend them and lose a tremendous amount of money. Billions of dollars a year defending them."

WORRY NO. 3: NORTH KOREA HASN'T CHANGED

There's also alarm that Trump and South Korea's dovish president are misreading North Korea.

"Kim is not going to unilaterally surrender his nuclear weapons," Vipin Narang, a North Korea nuclear expert at MIT, said in an interview. "It is now pretty clear that Trump doesn't care that Kim isn't going to unilaterally disarm, so long as he doesn't embarrass Trump by visibly flight testing missiles or openly testing nuclear weapons."

Despite the positive spin on North Korean intentions by the liberal government in Seoul, critics say, Pyongyang, as it has since the Korean War, still claims to be the sole legitimate Korean government, and is therefore working to split South Korea from its U.S. protector and enshrine its nuclear program, even if partially, as a way to eventually coerce Seoul into doing its bidding.

North Korea has famously called its nuclear arsenal a "treasured sword." And a se-

nior North Korean official said last year that dialogue won't continue "if the U.S. is trying to drive us into a corner to force our unilateral nuclear abandonment."

Asked at a recent press briefing if the North was negotiating in good faith, a senior U.S. official who refused to give his name under White House rules said: "I don't know if North Korea has made the choice yet to denuclearize. But the reason why we're engaged in this is because we believe there's a possibility that North Korea can make the choice to fully denuclearize."

Trump tweeted Sunday that he and Kim "both expect a continuation of the progress made at first Summit in Singapore. Denuclearization?"

Still, there are big doubts about the North's intentions.

When the two leaders meet in Hanoi, Kim "will further ensnare Trump on his march toward full nuclearization. compelling Trump to make more concessions like a peace agreement and drawdown of military support for South Korea," said Sung-Yoon Lee, a Koreas expert at Tufts University. "'Peace' sounds very pleasant, even hypnotically alluring, but a peace agreement between the U.S. and North Korea and allowing Kim Jong Un to buy more time only increases the chance of war."

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Overdrive



Audi finally gets controls right-mostly-in luxurious 2019 A8L sedan

By MARK PHELAN

roup-think is alive and well in the product-planning departments of German luxury brands, but for a change, that's good news for drivers. The Audi A8L sedan proves it, but also demonstrates German engineers can be mulishly stubborn even when you think they've learned their lesson.

For nearly two decades, Audi, BMW and Mercedes followed each other down the rabbit hole of counterintuitive multifunction rotary controllers to manage everything from radio presets to chassis setup. Now, with a near-synchronicity that might merit a raised eyebrow among U.S. companies, recent models from all three showcase the virtues of touch screens.

The 2019 A8L, Audi's graceful big sedan is that latest beneficiary, with multiple—maybe more than it needs—user-friendly touch screens. There's plenty more to like, including lean new exterior looks, Audi's hallmark Quattro all-wheel-drive, and a high-style interior.

Behind the wheel

- 2019 Audi A8L Quattro
- All-wheel-drive, five-passenger luxury sedan
- Price as tested: \$100,100 (excluding destination charge)
- Rating: Three out of four stars
- Reasons to buy: Looks; comfort; handling
- **Shortcomings:** Acceleration; shifter; climate controls

What's new?

- The A8L is the first car to use Audi's new design theme. It's 1.3 inches longer than the old model, 0.1 inch wider and 0.6-inch taller, but the new design makes it look lower, surprisingly lithe and sporty for a big car.
- Features include a standard adaptive air suspension and an optional electromechanical suspension that scans the road and can raise or lower any wheel slightly in 0.3 seconds to improve handling or ride.
- When a side collision is im-

also raise the car 3.1 inches in half a second to make sure the oncoming vehicle strikes the strongest possible part of the A8's chassis.

- A new turbocharged 3.0L V6 generates 11 percent more torque and about 1 percent more power than the supercharged 3.0-liter in the previous A8L.
- The L stands for long wheel-base, but Audi doesn't sell the regular-wheelbase model in the United States. The regular A8 is 5.1 inches shorter than the A8L and Mercedes S450 4Matic. The Cadillac CT6 and Porsche Panamera are smaller—neither offers has a long-wheelbase model—but worth a look from anybody who wants a top big sport sedan.
- More powerful and expensive V8 models are likely, but no details are available.

Specifications as tested

- Engine: 3.0L turbocharged V6
 Power: 335 horsepower at
- **Power:** 335 horsepower at 5,000-6,500 rpm; 369 pound-feet of torque at 1,370-4,500 rpm
- **Transmission:** 8-speed automatic
- **Acceleration:** 5.6 seconds 0-60 m.p.h.
- **Top speed:** 130 m.p.h. ■ **Wheelbase:** 123.1 inches
- Length: 208.7 inches
- Width: 76.6 inches
- Height: 58.5 inches
- Curb Weight: 4,715 pounds

How much?

- Prices for the 2019 A8L start at \$83,800, up \$1,300 from the old model.
- Key competitors include the BMW 740i xDrive and long-wheelbase Jaguar XJL AWD.
- I tested a car loaded with adaptive cruise control; Apple CarPlay; Android Auto; voice recognition; heated, ventilated and massaging 22-way power front seats; heated, power rear seats; 11 air bags; driver assistance features; twin touch screens; and more.
- The vehicle I drove cost \$100,100. All prices exclude destination charges.
- A8L prices compare well to similarly equipped versions of the

minent, the active suspension can also raise the car 3.1 inches in half Jaguar XJL.

BMW 740, Mercedes S450 and Jaguar XJL.

Competitive base prices

(Excluding destination charges) (Automatic transmission, all-wheel drive models.)

- Audi A8L Quattro: \$83,800
- BMW 740i xDrive: \$86,650
- Cadillac CT6 3.0L AWD: \$65,195
- Jaguar XJL Portfolio, AWD LWB: \$87,800
- Mercedes S450 4Matic: \$94,250
- Porsche Panamera 4 AWD: \$89,600

Source: Autotrader

What's good

- The controls use a big 10.3-inch touch screen mounted high in the dash board for most features. It's big, clear and easy to use
- The optional outstanding 23-speaker, 1,920-watt Bang & Olufsen audio system is outstanding. I never approached maximum volume, but heard instruments and parts I'd never noticed before in music I know well.
- Responsive handling and quick steering make the A8L feel like a smaller, sporty car.

What's not

- The A8L is one of the biggest cars in its class, but also unusually for an Audi the heaviest a 4,751 pounds.
- Combined with middle-of-thepack power, the substantial curb weight led to a leisurely 0-60 mph time of 5.6 seconds. That's slower than the BMW 740i xDrive and Mercedes S450 4Matic, the A8L's most direct competitors.
- Dials and buttons for climate control are replaced by handsome twin touch screens low in the center stack, just ahead of the shifter. It looks terrific, but you have to look at it for longer than you would with dials and buttons. Audi's delight at touch screens' easy use may have made the company overambitious about using them.
- The shifter doesn't provide enough feedback for various gears. I repeatedly thought I was in reverse when the A8 was still in

neutral. Uncommunicative shifters have gotten automakers in trouble before, when vehicles roll off unexpectedly.

EPA fuel economy ratings

(Automatic transmission, all-wheel drive models.)

- Audi A8L Quattro: 19 mpg city/27 highway/22 combined. Premium gasoline
- **BMW 740i xDrive:** 20/29/23. Premium
- Cadillac CT6 3.0L AWD: 18/26/21. Regular gasoline
- Jaguar XJL Portfolio, AWD LWB: 17/25/20. Premium
- Mercedes S450 4Matic: 18/28/22. Premium
- Porsche Panamera 4 AWD: 21/27/23. Premium

Source: www.fueleconomy.gov

Bottom line:

If you can afford an A8L, get it. The big sedan's looks, features and comfort more than make up for its minor shortcomings. The A8L is the first in a new generation of big sedans coming from Germany's top luxury brands, but its value, handling and features should age well even as newer competitors arrive.

Key features on vehicle tested

Standard equipment: Anti Lock brakes; stability control; 11 air bags; low speed automatic front barking; LED daytime running lights; LED tail lights and turn signals; push button start; Apple CarPlay; Android Auto; front and rear parking sensors; heated power side mirrors; four-zone climate control; headlight washers; power trunk; power sunroof; power sun shades; three months SiriusXM satellite radio service.

Options: Chrome exterior trim; 22-way heated, ventilated massaging front seats; heated steering wheel; head-up display; 360-degree camera; Alcantara headliner; black brake calipers; Valcona leather interior; low-gloss wood trim; HD Matrix LED headlights; OLED tail lights; power adjustable, heated rear seats; blind spot alert; lane departure assist; 20-inch, 20-spoke tires.

Late car payments? 7 steps to help keep a repossession at bay

By FRANK WITSIL

DETROIT FREE PRESS

Millions of Americans are at least three months behind on their car payments, the benchmark for many lenders to trigger a repossession and a warning light for the economy.

In fact, according to a Federal Reserve Bank report, the number of these troubled borrowers is 7 million, 1 million more than it was in 2010 following the global financial crisis that required an auto industry bailout.

If you are one of these borrowers, or afraid you might get behind, here are some things the experts say you can do:

Familiarize yourself with the loan

Before you buy a vehicle, shop around for the best financing deals. Consider the interest rate and the length of the loan, not just the amount of the monthly payment.

Know what you can afford

The car buying process can be exhausting and an auto seller may convince you that, yes, you can buy a car that you may not have the money for a few months later. So before you pick out the car you want—the right color and and all the options—set a budget.

Prioritize your bills and costs

Can you cut some expenses to save money? Can you pay your car loan—which is secured with the car—before you pay other debts, like a doctor's bill, which won't trigger a repossession.

Consider using emergency savings

If you've saved for a rainy day and you are now behind, this might be the time to tap into that account. In addition, a tax refund also might help you getting caught up.

Inform the lender

If you are late, or think you probably will be late, let your lender know. If you are having a hardship, such as a medical problem or job loss, the bank often is understanding and may be able to offer some leniency.

Ask for consideration

If you miss payment, as the lender to take your situation into account until you can get back on track. You may be able to work out a deal. The bottom line is the creditor doesn't want your car, but it will take it if it thinks you aren't going to make good on what you owe.

Seek help

If you are overwhelmed, contact a reputable nonprofit credit counseling organization. There may be a fee for the service, but the organization can help organize your finances, negotiate with creditors and help you get caught up.



Automobile repossession specialist Jon Anderson, 40, who calls himself "JJ the Repo Man," has used his tow truck to repossess all the cars in the Los Angeles lot behind him. "Business has been booming," he says.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2019 **19**

Life & Style

In an upset, 'Green Book' wins best picture at Oscars

Cuaron, who becoming the

first director to ever win for

serving as his own director of

photography, referenced an

especially international crop

of nominees in one of his three

"When asked about the

New Wave, Claude Chabrol

said there are no waves, there

is only the ocean," said Cua-

ron, referring to the French

filmmaker. "The nominees to-

acceptance speeches.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The segregation-era road-trip drama "Green Book" was crowned best picture at the 91st Academy Awards on Sunday, handing Hollywood's top award to a film seen as a feel-good throwback by some and ridiculed as an outdated inversion of "Driving Miss Daisy" by others.

In a year where Hollywood could have made history by bestowing best-picture on Netflix ("Roma") or Marvel ("Black Panther") for the first time, the motion picture academy instead threw its fullest support behind a traditional interracial buddy tale that proved as popular as it was divisive. But Peter Farrelly's "Green Book" weathered criticism that it was retrograde and inauthentic to triumph over more acclaimed films and bigger box-office successes.

It was an unexpected finale to a brisk, hostless ceremony that was also awash in historic wins for diversity, including Spike Lee's first competitive Oscar. More women and more individual black nominees won than ever before.

Lee, whose "Do the Right Thing" came out the same year that "Driving Miss Daisy" won best picture, was among those most visibly upset by the award handed to "Green Book." After presenter Julia Roberts announced it, Lee stood up, waved his hands in disgust and appeared to try to leave the Dolby Theatre before returning.

"Green Book" also won best supporting actor for Mahershala Ali and best original screenplay.

"The whole story is about love," said Farrelly, a comedy veteran of broad comedies like "Dumb and Dumber" and "There's Something About Mary." "It's about loving each other despite the differences and find out the truth about who we are. We're the same people."

The Oscars otherwise spread awards around for Ryan Coogler's superhero sensation "Black Panther," Alfonso Cuaron's black-and-white personal epic "Roma" and the Freddie Mercury biopic "Bohemian Rhapsody."

Backstage, Lee clutched a glass of champagne while reflecting on the 30 years between "Driving Miss Daisy" and "Green Book." "I'm snake bit," he said, laughing. "Every time somebody's driving somebody, I lose!"

Lee's win for best adapted screenplay for his white supremacist drama "BlacKkKlansman," an award he



WINNERS' LIST

The final list of the winners at the 91st Academy Awards:

- Best picture: "Green Book"
- Best actress: Olivia Colman, "The Favourite"
- Best actor: Rami Malek, "Bohemian Rhapsody"
- Best director: Alfonso Cuaron, "Roma"
- Best supporting actress: Regina King, "If Beale Street Could Talk"
- Best supporting actor: Mahershala Ali, "Green Book"
- Foreign language film: Mexico's "Roma"
- Original screenplay: "Green Book," Nick Vallelonga, Brian Currie and Peter Farrelly
- Adapted screenplay: "BlacKkKlansman," Charlie Wachtel, David Rabinowitz, Kevin Willmott and Spike Lee
- Original Song: "Shallow" from "A Star Is Born," music and lyrics by Lady Gaga, Mark Ronson, Anthony Rossomando and Andrew Wyatt.
- Cinematography: Alfonso Cuaron, "Roma"
- Best animated film: "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse"
- Original Score: "Black Panther," Ludwig Goransson
- Costume design: Ruth Carter, "Black Panther"
- Production design: "Black Panther"
- Sound Editing: "Bohemian Rhapsody"
- Sound Mixing: "Bohemian Rhapsody"
- Film Editing: John Ottman, "Bohemian Rhapsody"
- Animated short film: "Bao"
- Documentary short subject: "Period. End of Sentence"
- Visual effects: "First Man"
- Live action short film: "Skin"
- Documentary feature: "Free Solo"
- Makeup and hairstyling: "Vice"

shared with three co-writers, gave the ceremony its signature moment. The crowd rose in a standing ovation, Lee leapt into the arms of presenter Samuel L. Jackson and even the backstage press room burst into applause.

Lee, whose film including footage of President Donald Trump following the violent white supremacist protests in Charlottesville, Virginia, urged mobilization for the upcoming election.

"Let's be on the right side of history. Make the moral choice between love and hate," said Lee, who was given an honorary Oscar in 2015. "Let's do the right thing! You knew I had to get that in there."

One of the biggest surprises of the night was in the best actress category. Olivia Colman won for her Queen Anne in the royal romp "The Favourite," denying Glenn Close her first Oscar. Close remains the mostnominated living actor never to win, with seven nominations.

"Ooo. It's genuinely quite stressful," said a staggered Colman, who later turned to Close to say she was her idol, "And this is not how I wanted it to be."

The night's co-lead nominee "Roma" won best director and best cinematography for Cuaron, whose film also notched Mexico's first foreign language film Oscar. Cuaron and his "Three Amigos" countrymen—Alejandro Inarritu and Guillermo del Toro, who presented Cuaron with best picture—have had a stranglehold on the category, winning five of the last six years.

Peter Farrelly, center, and the cast and crew of "Green Book" accept the award for best picture at the Oscars on Sunday, Feb. 24, 2019, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

night have proven that we are a part of the same ocean."

The wins for "Roma" gave Netflix its most significant awards yet but "Green Book" denied the streaming giant the best-picture win it dearly sought. Netflix remains to some a contentious force in Hollywood, since it largely bypasses theaters. The wins for "Black Panther"—along with best animated film winner "Spider-Man: Into the Spider Verse"meant the first Academy Awards for Marvel, the most consistent blockbuster factor Hollywood has ever seen.

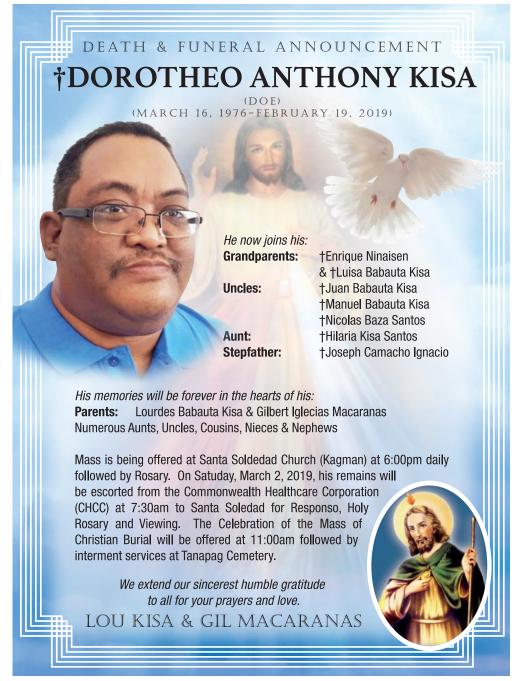
The lush, big-budget craft of "Black Panther" won for Ruth Carter's costume design, Hannah Beachler and Jay Hart's production design, and Ludwig Göransson's score. Beachler had been the first African-American to ever be nominated in the category. Beachler and Carter became

just the second and third black women to win nonacting Oscars.

"It just means that we've opened the door," Carter, a veteran costume designer, said backstage. "Finally, the door is wide open."

Two years after winning for his role in "Moonlight," Mahershala Ali won again for his supporting performance in "Green Book"—a role many said was really a lead. Ali is the second black actor to win two Oscars following Denzel Washington, who won for "Glory" and "Training Day." Ali dedicated the award to his grandmother.

"Bohemian Rhapsody," which kicked off the ABC telecast with a performance by Queen, won four awards despite pans from many critics and sexual assault allegations against its director. Bryan Singer, who was fired in midproduction for not showing up. Its star, Rami Malek, won best actor for his full-bodied and prosthetic teeth-aided performance, and the film was honored for editing, sound mixing and sound editing.



20 TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2019 LIFE STYLE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

'Arrangements being made to pay R. Kelly's \$100K bail'

CHICAGO (AP)—R. Kelly, one of the best-selling music artists of all time, remained jailed over the weekend as confidants make arrangements to pay the \$100,000 bail needed to free him as he awaits trial for aggravated sexual abuse, his lawyer said.

The 52-year-old R&B star had hoped to walk out of the 7,000-inmate Chicago jail, but defense attorney Steve Greenberg told The Associated Press in a phone interview Sunday that coordination of the payment is complicated.

He added that Kelly could be released as early as Monday or Tuesday.

"He has to rely on others acting on his behalf," Greenberg said. "And it's just not that easy-because Kelly's in jail."

A judge on Saturday set bond at \$1 million, requiring the Grammy Award-winning singer to pay 10 percent. Among the conditions of release is that Kelly have no contact with females younger than 18.



R. Kelly

In arguing for bail within the singer's ability to pay, Greenberg told the judge that Kelly wasn't wealthy despite decades of success creating hit songs. The lawyer blamed mismanagement, bad

contracts and other issues for his client's financial woes.

Greenberg said he had braced for the possibility that bail could be higher than \$1 million, but was pleased when Judge John Fitzgerald Lyke Jr. arrived at the amount he did.

There are multiple logistical issues that could have thwarted Kelly's efforts to pay over the weekend, said Joseph Lopez, a criminal defense attorney in Chicago not connected to the Kelly case.

Bond can be paid by credit card, cash or check. Court officials must be able to talk to bank officials directly to confirm that an amount written on a check is covered, and that's not possible when banks are closed, Lopez said.

'How to Train Your Dragon' tops Oscar weekend with \$55.5M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World" breathed some fire into a slumping box office with a franchise-best \$55.5 million debut over Oscar weekend.

Writer-director Dean DeBlois' third and supposedly final installment in the "How to Train Your Dragon" series notched the best opening of the year in U.S. and Canadian theaters.

Going into the weekend, overall ticket sales for 2019 were down 18 percent, according to Comscore, throwing cold water on the record box office of 2018.

But as Hollywood was set to gather for the Academy Awards on Sunday, "The Hidden World" lent the industry some good news—albeit not a hint at all of the magnitude of what that was in theaters last Oscar weekend when "Black Panther" was the top film.

Made for \$129 million, "The Hidden World" rode good reviews (91 percent fresh on Rotten Tomatoes) and warm audience reaction (an A CinemaScore) to exceed the \$43.7 million opening of the 2010 original (which ultimately made \$494.9 million worldwide) and the \$49 million opening of the 2014 sequel (which amassed \$621.5 million).

The latest installment, which similarly features the voices of Jay Baruchel, America Ferrera and Cate Blanchett, is the first DreamWorks Animation release under the Comcastowned Universal, which bought Jeffrey Katzenberg's com-

Universal trotted out "The Hidden World" abroad first. It's been in release internationally since January, earning \$216.9 million through Sunday.

Last week's top film, "Alita: Battle Angel," dropped steeply in its second weekend with \$12 million. That's a slide of 58 percent, and further trouble for the 20th Century Fox release from producer James Cameron and director Robert Rodriguez. The sci-fi film cost a hefty \$170 million to make.

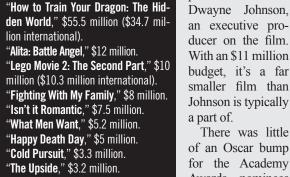
But "Alita" is doing better overseas. It grossed \$92.4 million internationally over the weekend, boosted by Fox's biggest opening ever in China. It was the no. 1 film there with \$62.3 million in ticket sales.

MGM's "Fighting With My Family," about professional wrestling star Saraya "Paige" Bevis, was the only other new film in wide release. It expanded to 2,711 theaters after a limited release last weekend, grossing a modest \$8 million.

Directed by Stephen Merchant, "Fighting With My Family" stars Florence Pugh as Bevis and features a cameo supporting performance from

lion international).

10. "Run the Race," \$2.3 million.



a part of. There was little of an Oscar bump for the Academy Awards nominees heading into Sun-

day's show. Alfonso Cuaron's "Roma" is tied for the most nominations with 10 but, as a Netflix release, it has been mostly streamed. Netflix has declined to give box-office figures for its theatrical release. The major theater operators have refused to screen Netflix films since they don't adhere to the traditional 90-day theatrical exclusivity window.

Of the nominees still in theaters, Peter Farrelly's "Green Book" fared the best, grossing \$2.1 million on its 15th weekend. The best picture-nominated interracial road trip drama has grossed \$69.6 million through Sunday, including \$27.1 million since Oscar nominations were announced. That dwarfs the post-nominations hauls of all other contenders.

Ahead of the Oscars, "Vice" added \$731,391 (\$47.2 million total), "A Star Is Born" earned \$700,000 (\$210.9 million total), "Bohemian Rhapsody" added \$645,000 (\$213.1 million total) and "The Favourite" pulled in \$540,000 (\$32.1 million total).

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included.

Pinks and warrior metallics among Oscar fashion highlights

NEW YORK (AP)—Lady Gaga sported the Tiffany Diamond around her neck and Glenn Close wore 40 pounds of gold dress to the Oscars. Charlize Theron rocked a bob in transformative dark brown and Jennifer Lopez was fit for battle in a head-to-toe mirror mosaic on a mighty silver dress.

Hollywood's fashion show Sunday in Los Angeles went technicolor and soft, ruffly and classic. It showed off pink and red, white and black, all in plenty of tulle, chiffon, crepe and velvet.

Theron donned Dior in dusty periwinkle, a color called "unexpected" by People's style and beauty director, Andrea Lavinthal. Regina King "looked so elegant in her perfectly-tailor white gown" by Oscar de la Renta, and Lopez took Lavinthal's bestdressed spot.

Some highlights as the awards season comes to a close:

LADY GAGA

Her platinum locks were high in a side-swept updo. Her Alexander McQueen gown had an Old Hollywood feel, with long gloves to match. But it was the hefty yellow bauble around her neck that stole her look.

Weighing in at 128.54 carats, the 142-year-old diamond from a South Africa mine is one of the world's largest yellow diamonds and rarely worn. In fact, it was only the third time it has been worn and the first time it has appeared at a major award ceremony and on a red carpet.

"From Lady Gaga debuting Tiffany's most precious diamond to Charlize Theron dripping herself in Bulgari earrings, necklaces and bracelets, bling is most certainly back," said Joyann King, executive digital editor for Harper's Bazaar.

Gaga's diamond was previously worn in 1957 and by Audrey Hepburn in 1961 publicity photos for "Breakfast at Tiffany's."

Gaga was more Old Hollywood than her usual shockflash. "She really toned down the theatrics during award sea-



"Bohemian Rhapsody", Olivia Colman, winner of the award for best performance by an actress in a leading role for "The Favourite", Regina King, winner of the award for best performance by an actress in a supporting role for "If Beale Street Could Talk", and Mahershala Ali, winner of the award for best performance by an actor in a supporting role for "Green Book", pose in the press room at the Oscars on Sunday, Feb. 24, 2019, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

son but not at the expense of her style," said Channing Hargrove, a fashion news writer for the millennial-focused site Refinery29.com.

PARADE OF PINK

It came in a variety of shades, from a honeysuckle pink lace gown by Jenny Packham worn by declutter guru Marie Kondo (she has a Netflix series) to the tiered confection donned by Kacey Musgraves, by Giambattista Valli Couture.

King said Gemma Chan's voluminous bright pink Valentino Couture dress with a high ruffle neck "stole every fashion editor's heart." And, bonus, it had pockets.

But Avril Graham, executive fashion and beauty editor for Harper's, said Chan's large and loose dress proved that hugging every curve "does not always a successful Oscar red carpet gown make."

King said Musgraves' gown "may have had one too many ruffles to be taken seriously for years to come."

Julia Roberts wore bright pink to present the best picture

Overall, major pink gowns, including Angela Bassett in custom Reem Acra, were showstoppers.

THE WARRIORS

Lopez, with Alex Rodriguez at

her side, was ready for battle in a long-sleeve silver Tom Ford gown that stood out for its chunky embellishment.

"Tom Ford famously only dresses one star every season on the red carpet. When it comes to rocking a mirrored metallic sheath, no one could possibly work the look more elegantly right than Jennifer Lopez," said People's Lavinthal.

Brie Larson and Emma Stone were also fierce, Larson in silver Celine by Hedi Slimane. It was a sparkly halter look with a high neck, another trend of the evening. The Lopez look also included a high neck.

Stone was in burnished Louis Vuitton with structured short sleeves that could have taken flight.

Glenn Close may not have won a best actress statuette, but she won the carpet in a gold gown with long sleeves and a long cape by Wes Gordon for Carolina Herrera.

Graham's best in gold was Danai Gurira in textured Brock Collection. She called her gown with black detailing 'a beautiful take on a strapless princess look." Gurira wore "just the right amount of jewels," including sleep droplet earrings by Fred Leighton.

The look, Graham said, was ornate, luxe and elegantly red carpet perfect.

THE GUYS TOOK IT

Nicholas Hoult wore lopsided lapels with a side sash piece, thanks to Dior Men by Kim Jones. There was color, including Stephan James in red velvet custom Etro and David Oyelowo in custom Etro done in green velvet.

And then there was Billy Porter, dressed in a custom tuxedo and a tuxedo ball gown combined, by Christian Siriano.

The dudes took risks and they paid off.

Chadwick Boseman wore Givenchy Haute Couture, designed by Clare Waight Keller. It was a play on classic tails, with the tail hanging nearly to the ground, in a Japanese design embellished with black and blue beads and sequins.

Jason Momoa wore pink Fendi, telling The Associated Press it was likely the last custom look Karl Lagerfeld designed for Fendi before he died last week.

"I loved all of the black men who were not afraid to shy away from texture," Hargrove said.

Siriano said on E! that Porter's dress was pulled together in a week, using the "Pose" actor's assistant as a fit model.

"Billy looked great," Hargrove said.

So did Spike Lee, in purple from head to nearly toe. On his feet were golden custom Air Jordans.

Women perform in Harvard theater group for 1st time

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) —Women have begun performing alongside men for the first time in Harvard University's Hasty Pudding theater group.

Six women and six men were cast in this year's musical production by America's oldest theatrical organization. The student-produced bur-

lesque show began this month.

The troupe has been putting on annual shows since 1844 but previously relied on allmale casts to play both male and female roles.

Women have long participated behind the scenes, but last year the group announced it would begin casting women

after facing pressure from students and alumni.

In the current show, men have still been cast in some female roles while women have

been cast in some male roles.

The group is now performing its show in Cambridge before taking it to New York and Bermuda in March.

Despite suit, effort for Robert Indiana museum is advancing

PORTLAND, Maine (AP)— Despite costly litigation embroiling pop artist Robert Indiana's estate, the foundation tasked with transforming the reclusive artist's home into an art museum is moving forward.

The presumptive chairman of the Star of Hope Foundation is making plans to add board members, engage with the Vinalhaven, Maine, island community where Indiana lived until his death, evaluate the art collection and overhaul his dilapidated house, which is on the National Register of Historic Places.

'We generally feel optimistic about this. This is a wonderful, incredible opportunity not just for Vinalhaven, but for the state of Maine," Larry Sterrs told The Associated Press.

Indiana, whose iconic LOVE series is instantly recognizable worldwide, retreated in 1978 from New York City to Vinalhaven Island, 15 miles (24 kilometers) off the coast of Rockland.

His home is known as the Star of Hope, after the former lodge of the fraternal organization Odd Fellows that used to be there. It has fallen into disrepair in recent years. When Indiana died at 89 in May, there was a hole in the roof and pigeons living inside.

Board members say they are committed to fulfilling Indiana's vision for transforming the place into a museum where the public can view the artist's extensive works. But before the museum can be ready, a lawsuit filed the day before Indiana's death that needs to be settled.

Indiana's former caretaker, Jamie Thomas, is accused in a federal lawsuit of taking advantage of the artist. It claims Thomas and an art publisher exploited Indiana in his final years by making unauthorized reproductions of his work. Thomas' lawyers have said there's more to the story and it will come out in court. A trial is scheduled for October in New York.

Sterrs, who currently leads the Unity Foundation, said despite the litigation, work on the museum is continuing.

The expectation is that Sterrs will serve as board chairman, alongside two current directors, Thomas and James Brannan, attorney for Indiana's estate.

Under Indiana's Thomas was tasked with running the museum, but he'll report to the board on which he serves.

"Bob directed that Jamie be involved with Star of Hope Inc. because Bob trusted Jamie to turn into reality both Bob's vision for preservation of his artistic legacy and Bob's desire to make Vinalhaven Community life more sustainable," Thomas' attorney, John Frumer, said.

Prince Harry, Meghan back education for girls in Morocco

ASNI, Morocco (AP)— Prince Harry and Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, flew up to a village in Morocco's rugged Atlas Mountains on Sunday to visit a school and encourage girls to pursue an education no matter what the obstacles.

Harry and the pregnant Meghan landed in the mountain town of Asni on Sunday morning on a brief official visit to Morocco. They arrived by helicopter from the capital of Rabat and were welcomed by pupils from a school run by the Moroccan foundation Education for All.

The school educates girls from rural communities whose parents would not be able to afford secondary education, and houses them in a boarding house since some come from villages 50 miles (80 kilometers) away.

"They made us feel like they are normal people just like us, like people we knew from before," said high school student Asmae Mennani, 17, describing how the royals inquired about her academic ambitions and encouraged her to continue studying.

Girls' education in Morocco is hindered by high rates of child labor and child marriage. In rural areas, especially in the Atlas Mountains, the distance to schools presents another significant challenge to getting an education.

"They know that our families live far from us. They asked me about how far my



Britain's Prince Harry and Meghan, Duchess of Sussex arrive for a visit to an 'Education for All' boarding house in Asni Town in Morocco, Sunday, Feb. 24, 2019.

village is and if I miss my family," said 17-year-old Samira Ouaddi, whose village, which has no school, is 30 miles (48 kilometers) away.

She performed a traditional henna ceremony on Meghan for the story," she said. "It was so

good luck during her pregnancy, tattooing her hand with a flower drawing and giving herself and her friends the same tattoo.

"It will make my parents really proud when I tell them much pressure to do henna on a princess. I was shaking, but she comforted me and said that it's all okay. She gave me hope."

Many of the girls said Meghan and Harry were very humble and urged them to aim high.

Flowers from Meghan Markle's baby shower donated to charity

NEW YORK (AP)—Flowers from Meghan Markle's New York baby shower are getting a second life.

WNBC reports that the flowers from the Duchess of Sussex's shower on Wednesday were donated to Repeat Roses, an organization that gives flowers to charities.

The American Cancer Society says Meghan's flowers were donated to cancer patients around the city.

One of the recipients was the cancer society's Hope Lodge. The facility provides free lodging to cancer patients traveling to New York for treatment.

Friends including Gayle King and Amal Clooney joined Meghan at her shower at a Manhattan hotel.

The 37-year-old American actress became a British royal when she married Prince Harry last year. She is due to give birth to the couple's first child in April.

Dad with baby daughter gets questioned by security guards

EAR ABBY: I am a working stay-at-home mom with a successful career. I am also the primary breadwinner. My husband doesn't work so he can take care of our baby girl full time.

To give me quiet time, my husband often takes her to the mall or someplace fun so I can concentrate. A problem has arisen, though. Since he's alone with our daughter, he's run into problems with security guards who think he's kidnapping her or doing something suspicious. We're not sure what to do about this.

I obviously don't want there to be problems for him, especially since I am not physically able to drive and come to meet him if there's a misunderstanding. Can you tell me the most reliable way to prove that he's our daughter's father and holds no nefarious intent?

CONCERNED WIFE AND MAMA

DEAR CONCERNED W&M: While this scenario seems incredible to me, if he isn't already doing so, your husband should start carrying family pictures of the two of you and your daughter when he takes her out. That way, if there is any question that your husband is her father, it can be quickly resolved.

DEAR ABBY: My sister invited our mother, who is in her 70s, to my wedding dress fittings. I did not invite her.

I have forgiven my mother for the crappy environment she

created for us while I was growing up. I always invite her to family gatherings although she remains demeaning, demoralizing and bitter. My mother can last about an hour in my company without saying something negative and snarky, and I don't want her to ruin this fun occasion.

She knows how I feel about her attitude around me. I don't call or talk to her unless there is a family emergency. I normally grin and bear it on holidays for my sister's sake. My sister has a mental illness, and our mom is an almost daily presence in her life, which I appreciate, as I live in another state. Must I suck it up again for my sister's sake?

GETTING MARRIED IN MINNESOTA

DEAR GETTING MARRIED: Permit your mother to be present for the first fitting. If, as you predict, she becomes negative and snarky, concentrate on the fitting, then inform her— and your sister afterward—that she will not be welcome to join you for another one.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 23-year-old senior in college. I came out as gay at 21, but still haven't found a boyfriend. I had a crush on one guy and thought he liked me back, but a few weeks ago he told me he has a boyfriend. I was heartbroken.

People have always told me it's great to be single, but the truth is I'm just not happy. I'm lonely and I want a boyfriend.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



I'm having no luck, and I don't know what to do. Help, please SO READY IN TEXAS

DEAR SO READY: Look around and scope out what opportunities there are for an LGBTQ person in your college town. Get out and be sociable. Join an activity group if you have the time. If nothing suits you, go online and research dating sites and apps. However, if you don't find someone there, you may have to be patient for another year until you can move to a community that offers greater options.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable - and most frequently requested - poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



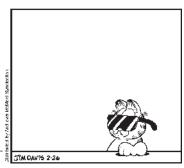












Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



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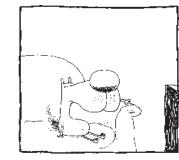
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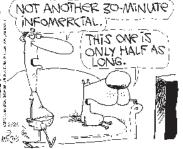
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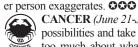
CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Corinne Bailey Rae, 40; Erykah Badu, 48; Mark Dacascos, 55: Michael Bolton, 66. Happy Birthday: Keep your goals in perspective.

Refuse to let emotional matters deter you from using your time and talents properly. Focus on the positive, and keep your distance from troublemakers or those trying to coerce you into situations that aren't emotionally sound. Moderation and simplicity will lead to achievement and financial stability, and peace and love will bring you happiness. Your numbers are 8, 15, 22, 26, 31, 34, 40.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your desire for change should not overrule making a wise choice. Consider the consequence of your actions before taking part in something that lacks enough facts, verifications or consistency to ensure the risk isn't too great. Play it safe. •••••

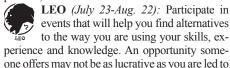
TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Listen and follow through with questions if something seems too good to be true. You can make a deal, but it has to be on your terms and for the right reason. Experience should shed light on

a dubious situation. GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't let emotions interfere when making a decision. Look at the logistics of whatever situation you face and act accordingly. A problem with someone you are collaborating with or working alongside will develop if you or the oth-



CANCER (June 21-July 22): Look at the possibilities and take action. Don't worry too much about what others do. Follow

the path that is most conducive to reaching your goal. A unique idea will excite you, but before you



and are trying to achieve similar goals. Sharing information and spending time developing ideas will help alleviate mistakes. Relationships and emotional problems should be

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Question the expense of any proposal someone makes. A change may be in order, but how you go about it will determine your success. Moder-

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Expand your interests, use your skills and creative talent and discuss your options with someone you like to collaborate with. You will

can lead to positive results. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):

You'll be given the wrong impression about someone. Don't make assumptions, and take

proceed, consider the cost involved.

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believe. Get what you want in writing. OCCO VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Get out with people who share your opinions

handled with care. Truth matters. ••

ation should be enforced to avoid loss or being taken advantage of. ����

come up with an idea and form a partnership that

Emotional matters will escalate if you let someone interfere in your business.

action when closer scrutiny should be taken.

EUGENIA

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



Gather facts before reacting.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your help will be solicited by someone trying to take advantage of you. Look at every angle before you step into a situation that can make you look bad or end up costing you emotionally, financially or physically.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Look at your options and sign up wherever you will make the most use of your time and your skills. An opportunity should be considered carefully, and what's offered should be put in

writing before you agree. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Listen to what others have to say, but don't get into an emotional spat with someone who is taking out his or her frustrations on you. Separate the good from the bad when dealing with others

to avoid negativity and setbacks. OO Birthday Baby: You are emotional, imaginative and ambitious. You are charming and popular.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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Difficulty Level ★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday

to Saturday.

2/26

Vesterday's Answer

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WONDERWORD OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle zontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD. Solution: 8 letters WINNIE THE POOH

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D'Torres Building, Garapan P.O. Box 504340, Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: (670) 235-8060; Fax: (670) 235-8070 Email: mnevangelista@gmail.com Attorney for Petitioner Lee Christopher Tudel

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE **NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

) CIVIL ACTION IN RETHE) NO. 19-0055- CV

ESTATE OF:) NOTICE OF HEARING Victorina) ON COMBINED PETITION Manibusan) FOR LETTERS OF

Tudela,) ADMINISTRATION AND Deceased.) APPOINTMENT OF **GUARDIAN; AND NOTICE**

TO CREDITORS TO: ALL CREDITORS and INTERESTED CLAIMANTS

NOTICE is hereby given that Lee Christopher Tudela, of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, has filed a petition in the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for Letters of Administration and to be appointed as Administrator of the Estate of Victorina Manibusan Tudela, deceased. The attorney of record is Michael N. Evangelista, Esq., P.O. Box 504340. Sainan, MP 96950. The hearing on the petition is set for the 21st day of March, 2019, at 9:00 a.m., Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All person having any claims against the estate or against the deceased should file their claims with the Clerk of Court of the Superior Court within sixty (60) days after the first publication

Dated this 22nd day of February, 2019

/s/ Judge Camacho, Joseph Norita

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 - Must possess good communication skill

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Johnson cruises to 20th career title in Mexico

MEXICO CITY (AP)— Dustin Johnson struggled early, caught a good break from behind a tree and then breezed to his sixth World Golf Championship title Sunday by closing with a 5-under 66 for a five-shot victory over Rory McIlroy in the Mexico Championship.

Johnson won for the 20th time on the PGA Tour, making him a lifetime member when he puts in 15 years on tour. In his 12th season, he is the 38th player in tour history to reach 20 wins.

He felt just as good about the way his game is headed. Johnson had said on Thursday he was starting to swing it as well as he did two years ago, when he won three straight tournaments to become the dominant figure in golf until his spill down the stairs on the eve of the Masters led to a back injury.

"This gives me a lot of confidence for the rest of the year," he said.

McIlroy was five behind at the turn and ran off six birdies in a seven-hole stretch before closing with a meaningless bogey for a 67. Johnson was right there with him with five birdies on the back nine.

The only drama came early. Johnson had to make an 18-foot par on No. 2 to avoid a two-shot swing. He had to make a 6-foot putt to salvage bogey on the next hole, and his lead was cut in half in just three holes. Leading by three, the tournament turned on two holes and two trees.

Johnson hit iron off the tee to the right at No. 5 and his ball settled right behind a tree. He called for a ruling, and showed the official that with

SAN ANTONIO-From al-

lowing flagsticks to stay in

Dustin Johnson putts on the 2nd green on the second day of competition of the WGC-Mexico Championship at the Chapultepec Golf Club in Mexico City, Friday, Feb. 22, 2019.

a shot slightly behind toward the fairway, his right heel was on the curb of a cart path.

tree limbs and two-putted green of Chapulte-He was given free relief, likely par.

"I got a fortunate break there on No. 5 and ended up making a nice par," he said. "Sometimes the rules work to your advantage."

On the par-5 sixth, McIlroy went left and his ball settled behind a tree. He asked for relief and was denied. McIlroy said he wanted to chip away from the fairway to an open area, and when he showed European Tour official Mike Stewart his intended shot, his right foot was on the path. However, to play at that angle, a 4-inch nob on the trunk blocked the path of his club, meaning McIlroy wouldn't be able to make contact.

To play out left-handed, McIlroy would have had to stretch his foot to reach the path. In both cases, relief was denied. Stewart said he asked McIlroy if he wanted a second opinion, and Mc-Ilroy declined. He punched out left-handed, and his third shot went into the water, leading to a bogey.

Johnson made an 8-foot birdie, the lead was up to five shots and Johnson took it from there.

Johnson finished at 21-under 263, the lowest score by five shots in the three years

at Chapultepec Golf Club. McIlroy continue his solid run. This was his fourth consecutive finish in the top 5, the longest such streak of his career.

Paul Casey (65), Ian Poulter (68) and Kiradech Aphibarnrat (68) tied for third, though they were 10 shots behind.

Tiger Woods got his first top 10 of the year, but it wasn't all

pec. Over the last two rounds, Woods hit 31 out of 36 greens in regulation and only had scores of 70 and 69 to show for it.

For the second straight day, he declined to speak to reporters and gave comments only to a PGA Tour official.

The best round belonged to Justin Thomas, who closed with a 62 before heading off to the Honda Classic to defend his title. Thomas was 8 under through 10 holes when his tee shot on the par-3 third hole landed inches behind the hole and spun 40 feet away.

Even so, this day was all about Johnson.

It was the eighth time he has built a 54-hole lead of three shots or more, including one year at Pebble Beach when the final round was rained out. Johnson only gave McIlroy a glimmer of hope early, and no hope on the back nine as they matched birdies on three straight holes through the 16th.

Johnson goes to No. 2 in the world by a fraction of a point, and will return to No. 1 the following week based on the two-year computations because neither Johnson nor Justin Rose are playing next week.

Despite some criticism from tour pros, USGA pleased with new rules sudden the conversation was which was really simplify the Fowler. On Friday during the

'I don't get this dropping from your knee. What gives?"

Davis gladly talked to them about the changes and tried to explain their rationale, as have USGA and R&A officials who have attended professional events around the world this year in an attempt to educate the players on the most sweeping changes to the rule book in decades. Suffice it to say, some of the discussions have been lively.

Given criticism voiced by various pros on social media about some of the changes, you'd think the USGA might be upset with how the modernized Rules have been rolled out. Not so, says Davis.

"From my perspective, I would say by and large they've been a huge success," Davis said. "They did exactly what we wanted them to do, understanding and make them easier to apply."

That doesn't mean the process hasn't come with some angst. Hearing tour pros rail against the USGA is nothing new. But USGA

officials have tried to address the issues quickly and

provide players background for the changes in hopes that a better understanding of the thought process will assuage their concerns.

"When you actually take them through this is why, it's always a light-blub moment," Davis said. "Oh, I didn't realize that.' And I think that's the frustration that there is. You know it would have been nice if you actually asked the why ... but listen, it's the world we live in."

The most recent case of an upset tour pro is Rickie

second round of the WGC-Mexico Championship, he shanked his second shot on the 10th hole out of bounds. He then mistakenly dropped his replacement ball not from

knee height, as the new Rules require, but from the old standard of

shoulder length. This resulted in a one-stroke penalty.

Afterward, Fowler called the change to the rule "terrible." "It's on me. I took the shot. It was no big deal," Fowler told reporters. "But I think with the new rules that have been put in place, it's not doing any favors for our sport."

Thomas Pagel, USGA senior managing director, governance, said that the USGA intends to reach out to Fowler after this weekend to discuss

the issue directly and attempt to explain why the change has been made. Pagel, who was on-site at the first PGA Tour event of 2019 and spoke to players at length about the rules changes, said that the new drop procedure was an area where the USGA tried to emphasize to the tour pros to be particularly mindful of, knowing that old habits can die hard.

Despite the criticism, Pagel says that the USGA and R&A are taking a long approach to the new Rules. "We went through a long process, seven years in the making," Pagel said. "We engaged 30,000plus golfers as part of a feedback period. We released the rules in advance and we went in and further revised them. We gave plenty of runway for people to jump in and learn.

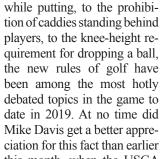
"I would say in the applica-

tion of the rules, we remain committed to the rules as they are," Pagel said. "If we learn something, if we realize that a rule is producing bad outcomes, we will adjust."

Specifically, Pagel noted the USGA's clarification on the caddie line-up rule, which created confusion during the Waste Management Phoenix Open.

But don't expect the USGA to make any short-term changes for the sake of appeasement.

"We just need to remain vigilant with our conversations," Pagel said, "and make sure we're out there and have a presence with the players at the highest level and we're able to have those conversations, to explain a little of the 'why' frankly in informal settings. If they understand the why, perhaps there's a thought or two before it hits social media."



this month, when the USGA CEO had the chance for the first time to play in the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am—and in the process place himself in the line of fire from tour professionals. "I was hitting some balls on

recalled on Saturday ahead of his State of the Association speech at the USGA Annual Meeting at the J.W. Marriott Resort & Spa. "And without naming names, a couple of big-name players were on ei-

ther side of me. And all of a

the range [one day]," Davis

Cora hoping to repeat in sophomore season with Red Sox



FORT MY-ERS, Fla. (AP)—Alex

Cora guided the Boston Red Sox to a franchise-record 108 wins and a World Series victory last season, and then he reported to his second spring training as a major league manager as if nothing had changed.

Still just 43, Cora has a chance to be the first Red Sox manager to win back-to-back championships in more than 100 years.

And he's approaching it with the same, unruffled demeanor as when he was a rookie.

"I think that's why we were so consistent last year," utilityman Brock Holt said this week as the team made the transition from workouts to the exhibition season.

"If we won, we came in here, turned the music on, showered, went home. If we lost, we didn't turn the music on," Holt said. "That's what helped us to be so consistent. It wasn't any different; there was no panic. He stayed with his plan."

A native of Puerto Rico who is the first minority manager in franchise history and one of the youngest ever to run the Red Sox dugout, Cora



Boston Red Sox infielder Tony Renda fields a groundout by New York Yankees' Estevan Florial to end the top of the eighth inning with the bases loaded, during a spring training baseball game in Fort Myers, Fla., Saturday, Feb. 23, 2019.

Mets ace DeGrom makes spring debut

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. (AP)—After one exhibition start, Jacob deGrom has a 9.00 ERA. No worries, because all other signs are positive for one of the top pitchers in the major leagues.

"Still plenty of time to hopefully get that down," the New York Mets ace said Sunday with a few laughs.

The reigning NL Cy Young Award winner tossed one inning and gave up Tyler White's RBI single on a 97 mph fastball in a 10-1 loss to a split squad of Houston Astros.

DeGrom allowed two hits and threw 14 of his 17 pitches for strikes.

The 30-year-old righty made his spring training debut after posting a 1.70 ERA season. Often throttled by a lack of run support, he went 10-9 for the fourth-place Mets.

Even after such a dominant season, deGrom isn't taking anything for granted.

"I was nervous today going out there for the first time," the lanky pitcher said.

DeGrom said he began playing catch in October just a few weeks after the season ended, keeping his arm active by tossing the ball with his father. He has thrown regularly in the offseason, just a couple of times a week, since taking more time off after the lengthy 2015 campaign because of the World

DeGrom later developed nerve damage in 2016 and had season-ending surgery in September.

"I just feel like when I play more catch and keep my arm moving it seems to feel batter when I come to spring training. If there's no break, maybe it will stay the same," he said.

DeGrom had a few obstacles a year ago that prevented him from getting the opening day nod from manager Mickey Callaway. DeGrom left camp to be with his wife for the birth of their daughter and then battled back stiffness after his return, delaying his progress even further.

Good friend Noah Syndergaard made the start instead of him and beat St. Louis in the opener.

DeGrom said his goal this year is to work on consistency and limit the running game better.

"I want to try and eliminate those starts that got out of hand. It's a little bit easier said than done," said de-Grom, who allowed a leadoff double to Tony Kemp.

"I'm trying to keep the focus on the pitch I'm about to throw, not the pitch I've just thrown that was a homer or whatever happened," he said. didn't need much time to figure things out in Boston. After losing their opener, they won nine straight games and 17 of the next 18.

They finished the regular season 108-54—the best record in franchise history, and eight games ahead of the rival Yankees. They never lost more than three in a row, and their worst stretch of six losses in eight games came in August after they were already 50 games above .500 with a double-digit lead in the division.

Through it all, Cora never changed.

"Over the course of 162 games, things aren't always going to go well," outfielder Andrew Benintendi said. "He stayed even-keeled."

But never distant.

While some managers looked at the clubhouse as the players' domain, Cora will be out among them, joking around or just checking in. It doesn't hurt that he is only eight years older than first baseman Steve Pearce, and was teammates with second baseman Dustin Pedroia on the Boston team that won it all in 2007.

Holt called Cora "one of

the smartest baseball people" he's met, and noted that the manager's ability to speak both Spanish and English also helps him relate to many of the team's Hispanic players.

"He's one of the best communicators I've ever been around in the game," Holt said. "As players, we always know what to expect, what we need to do. You see him in here, joking around with guys. He talks to everyone. I enjoy being around someone who enjoys being around us."

The season-long effort to

communicate paid off after Game 3 of the AL Division Series against the Yankees, when Holt became the first player in major league history to hit for the cycle in a postseason game.

Cora texted him that night to say he would be benched for Game 4 in favor of Ian Kinsler.

"I expected it before it even happened," Holt said. "I didn't think anything about it. We all knew what's happening, and what we were trying to do."

Kinsler doubled in the game's first run and the Red Sox advanced to the AL Championship Series.

And Holt was back in the lineup for Game 1 against the Houston Astros. Boston lost that one before winning the next six games, taking a 2-0 lead in the World Series before the Dodgers slowed them down with an 18-inning victory in Game 3. The Red Sox finished Los Angeles off in five games.

Cora is the fifth Red Sox manager to win it all in his first season in Boston, but the first ever to win as a managerial rookie. His .667 winning percentage is also the best in franchise history.

Asked this week if there was anything he learned last year that he would do differently in his second season, Cora noted that it was coach Ramon Vazquez's wife's birthday, and that was an unexpected setback for the staff in 2018.

"He forgot about it last year," Cora said with a laugh. "So we made a point to Face-Time her. She's in California, and we have a cake and balloons and everything. So we're making adjustments on the fly.

"We made sure he didn't forget this year," Cora said. "Yeah, I mean, teamwork."

More than Machado: Padres in good hands up the middle

PEORIA, Ariz. (AP)—The San Diego Padres' present got a lot better last week when they signed Manny Machado to play third base.

The future up the middle looks very bright as well, with Fernando Tatis Jr. and Luis Urias coming through the system.

Both were in the Padres' lineup on Sunday when San Diego played the Chicago White Sox in spring training. Urias, batting second, went 0 for 3 with two strikeouts but made a sparkling play in the field to take an infield hit away from Ryan Goins. Tatis, in the fifth spot, was 0 for 1 with a walk, and scored on the second of Aderlin Rodriguez's two-run homers in a 5-4 Padres victory.

"He's unreal," Urias said of

Tatis. "He has a lot of energy and he brings a lot of that to the team. He can do it all."

But Urias figures to come first. The 21-year-old from Mexico has been a second baseman since he signed with the Padres, but may open the season at shortstop with the veteran Ian Kinsler brought in to play second base this season for San Diego.

"I'm just starting to keep my routine," Urias said. "I don't know where I'm going to play short or second. I've been playing second base most of the time. I signed as a shortstop but I don't mind playing either one."

Soon, though, the 20-year-old Tatis will be joining him.

Tatis is the No. 2-ranked prospect in baseball accord-

ing to MLB.com and Baseball America. His father was a third baseman in the majors and once hit two grand slams in one inning for the St. Louis Cardinals. Tatis Jr., at age 19, hit .286 with 16 homers at San Antonio, the Padres' Double-A affiliate.

Urias is a highly touted prospect as well. He did make a brief appearance n the big leagues last year, batting .208 with a pair of homers in 48 at-bats before being sidelined with a hamstring injury, but he says he is ready to go.

For his career in the minors, he has hit .306 with a .397 on-base percentage.

"It's just natural, since I was little," Urias said of his selective strike zone. "I was kind of like the hitter who put the ball in play. I have been refining my approach every year, just trying to get better, but I know my type of game and I just want to get on base.

"We're always improving something. I'm pretty excited to be back because i hurt my hamstring at the end of the year so I'm pretty happy right now because I'm healthy," he said.

Manager Andy Green is anxious to see how well Machado can mesh with his young teammates—which could be a long-time combination for the Padres, given that Machado is only 26 and signed through 2028.

"A great player is going to raise everyone else's level of expectation of quality of play," Green said.

LeBron questions Lakers' sense of urgency



The New Orleans Pelicans entered Saturday night's game against the Los Angeles Lakers eight games back of .500 and sat star center

Anthony Davis.

They still toppled L.A., 128-115, and led by as many as 20 points, which prompted LeBron James to express frustrations with the Lakers' current standing in the Western Conference and wonder about the sense of urgency of his teammates.

"But how many know what's at stake if you've never been there before?" James said of his teammates Saturday night after the loss.

"I'm playing devil's advocate, you know? It's kind of a fine line when you talk about that, because when you've never been there or know what it takes to actually shoot for something like that, sometimes you're afraid to get uncomfortable.

"So you got to be comfortable with being uncomfortable. I'm not saving that's what we are as a whole. It kind of looks that way at times, that sometimes we're afraid to be uncomfortable and kind of get out of our comfort zone and kind of, you know, have that sense of urgency from the jump, and not be afraid to actually go out and fail to succeed. I mean, we have, what, 23 games left? We'll see what happens."

James has reached the NBA Finals in each of the last eight seasons as a member of the Miami Heat and Cleveland Cavaliers, and has made the playoffs the last 13 seasons. Los Ange-

Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James (23) reacts to a call against the New Orleans Pelicans in the second half of an NBA basketball game in New Orleans, La. Saturday, Feb. 23, 2019.

les, meanwhile, has missed the playoffs a franchise-record five seasons in a row.

Playing his first year in Los Angeles, the Lakers are currently 29-30 and 3.5 games back of the eighth-seeded Los Angeles Clippers (33-27), who currently hold the final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

"The last few years, every-

one's so accustomed to the losses that I'm just not accustomed to," James said. "I'm not accustomed to it. I would never get comfortable with losing. So losing Game 1 (at home of this season) to Houston, it feels the same way as losing Game 59 in New Orleans for me. That's just how I'm built. That's who I am."

James is playing with a

roster that's still young and fairly inexperienced with playoff basketball, after he signed a four-year, \$154 million deal in July.

"I knew it was going to be very challenging," James said of winning immediately on a young Lakers team. "Just because of the experience the roster had at that point and time. I knew it was going to be challenging from that sense, but I felt like we could still play better basketball."

In Saturday's loss against the Pelicans, James scored 27 points and added 12 assists, seven rebounds, and four steals.

"I just think we've got to be consistent," James said. "We got to be consistent with everything. We got to be consis-

tent with our body languages, our effort. As a whole, we're just not consistent."

Meanwhile, in Boston, a strange and inconsistent season for the Celtics hit another bump Saturday night in a 126-116 loss to the bottom-feeding Chicago Bulls.

After a number of critical comments following losses at various points this season, Kyrie Irving struck a much more confident tone this time. Asked if he was worried about the Celtics' struggles, Irving simply answered, "No."

And why not?

"Because I'm here," Irving said.

Boston lost its second in a row since returning to action after the All-Star break. Irving had a team-high 37 points and 10 assists. It was a far cry from the last time the teams met on Dec. 8 when the Celtics handed the Bulls the worst loss in franchise history with a 133-77 rout.

The Celtics remain in fifth place in the Eastern Conference. After advancing to the East finals last year, they came into the season with high expectations and were projected to be one of the top teams in conference and league.

Irving said he isn't too concerned with losing games in February. He said he's only worried about how the team looks come playoff time. And he's confident in that regard, too.

"It is what it is. I don't get frustrated by this stuff anymore," Irving said. "It's just part of the regular season. In the playoffs, when you can plan for a team, prepare for a team, I still don't see anybody beating us in seven games."

NEW YORK (AP)—This Broadway smash even made news on Hollywood's big night.

Hey, when the Knicks win a home game, Spike Lee needs to know. Even if he's across the country at the Academy Awards, busy getting his own big victory.

So when the Knicks snapped their franchise-record losing streak at Madison Square Garden at 18 games by beating the San Antonio Spurs 130-118 on Sunday night, actor Samuel L. Jackson made the announcement from on stage to Lee . Lee was in the audience on the night he won the award for best director for "BlacKkKlansman," but for so long sat courtside when the Knicks used to win home games.

"It's major," guard Dennis Smith Jr said after his first home victory as a Knick.

"We've been having our fans come out and support every night and haven't won

Knicks beat Spurs to end 18-game home losing streak part of that one, so I'm glad that we could get it tonight and just give the fans some-

thing to see."

Damyean Dotson scored 27 points, and Smith, Kevin Knox and Emmanuel Mudiay all had 19. Smith had 13 assists and Knox had 10 boards, while rookie Mitchell Robinson finished with 15 points, 14 rebounds and five blocked shots

Coach David Fizdale said the Knicks never talked about their home skid, which began after a victory over Milwaukee.

"They get over it, they get back to work," he said. "And at some point you know the basketball gods will look out for you when you're doing

DeMar DeRozan had 32 points and nine rebounds for the Spurs, who fell to 1-6 on their trip that ends Monday night in Brooklyn. LaMarcus

here since Dec. 1. I wasn't Aldridge scored 18 points, but was limited to just 13 minutes through three quarters because of foul trouble.

> The Spurs came in as the NBA's best 3-point shooting team but were just 6 for 24 behind the arc, far too poor to make up for a dismal defensive effort that had the Knicks wearing out the rims with slam dunks and shooting 51 percent.

Coach Gregg Popovich credited his reserves for getting the Spurs back into the game in the second half, but the hole was too big.

"That group gets credit for playing and doing their job the way they should," he said. "Other than that, it was a pathetic performance defensively, but the Knicks had something to do with it."

The Spurs were so off early that they didn't even make one of their baskets. Knox and Smith both went for the rebound of Aldridge's miss with no Spurs around and knocked it into the basket, with Aldridge getting credit for the field goal.

Nuggets 123, Clippers 96

In Denver, Paul Millsap wasn't about to let Nikola Jokic's foul trouble hinder the Denver Nuggets.

Millsap helped the Nuggets breeze past the Los Angeles Clippers with a vintage performance that had his coach marveling at his youthful and infectious energy Sunday.

Jokic had 22 points and 16 rebounds, and Millsap had 21 points and 16 boards, doing much of his damage after Jokic took a seat two minutes into the second half with his fourth foul

Millsap said he knew he had to step up, "not just scoring inside, but leading the team."

He said that was easier for him to accomplish thanks to a break earlier this month when he missed three games with a sore right ankle. Since his return, he said, he's in better shape and better rhythm.

"I feel great," Millsap said. "Having that break was definitely beneficial."

His refreshed body and mind has, in turn, injected Denver's deep bench with even more energy.

Magic 113, Raptors 98

In Toronto, Terrence Ross and the Orlando Magic shook off the disappointment of a difficult loss by taking down Ross' former team.

Ross scored 28 points, Nikola Vucevic had 23 points and 12 rebounds and the Magic beat the Raptors, ending Toronto's winning streak at seven.

Jonathan Isaac scored 16

points and D.J. Augustin had 12 as the Magic won for the sixth time in seven games. Orlando had won a seasonbest five straight before a 110-109 home loss to Chicago on Friday, its first game following the All-Star break.

"This is the part of the season where you've got to move forward, no matter what," Ross said of moving past Friday's narrow defeat. "You can't let that determine how you start the next game You've got to make sure that you're ready to play."

Ross, who played 41/2 seasons in Toronto, connected on nine of 21 attempts, including three of eight from 3-point range, and matched his season high with nine rebounds. He has led the Magic in scoring 11 times this season, including five of the past 10 games.

'He's been great," Vucevic said. "When he scores for us like that, it just gives us a huge advantage.

Federer targets 100th career title in Dubai

DUBAI—Roger Federer heads into the Dubai Championships on Monday convinced that it's only a matter of time until he wins his record-setting 100th career title.

The 20-time Grand Slam champion, who has long used the emirate as a winter training base, will take to the court for the first time since his Australian Open fourth-round defeat

by Stefanos Tsitsipas.

The Greek youngster is also in the Dubai field, buoyed by his Marseille title win on Sunday.

The 37-year-old Swiss, seeded second behind tourna-

ment debutant Kei Nishikori, explained on Sunday that he is perfectly content to let things take their natural course and is not stressing over finally cracking his trophy century.

"That's got to be the mindset, that you try your best every match, every week anyway," said Federer, who reached 99 titles last October. Things fall

into place or they don't. It's not because of lack of effort."

The tennis icon added: "We've been talking about 99 titles ever since Basel, every tournament I've played.

"There's nothing new. Of course, coming to Dubai where I've enjoyed a lot of success sort of makes you believe maybe it could happen here. Then again, the draw is tough. I haven't played in a few weeks so you reset everything, get ready for your first round, hope everything is going to click again here in Dubai."

Federer will be starting his quest for a record eighth Dubai title as he takes a 13-0 head-to-head record into his first-round contest on Monday against longtime friend Philipp Kohlschreiber.

The German went down to Federer in the Rotterdam second round a year ago, with the Swiss winning the tourna-

in swimming, athletics, weight-

lifting, canoe, and baseball re-

ceived the monetary incentives

from NMSA. Weightlifters

Angel San Nicolas, Antoinette

Labausa, Rodrigo Ada, Bonnie

Cruz, and Joey Tudela deliv-

ered 15 medals for the CNMI,

including six golds, while ath-

letics gave the Commonwealth

BIGGER

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ment and taking back the ATP number one ranking at the record age of 36.

"I just practiced with Kohlschreiber a couple (of) days ago,

we played two sets basically," said Federer. "We really both know what we're getting into. He looks good, so it's going to be tough.'

The crowd at the Aviation Club will be delighted to see Federer return for the first time since 2017, when he lost in the second round to Evgeny Donskoy.

"It gives me confidence that I know I can play well here in Dubai on this court in these conditions," he added. "But conditions are playing much, much slower than the previous years. You can really grind a player down now. It's been actually quite a big change. I'm excited to be here. I do believe this surface also lends itself very well for me to play well here. Hope I can show it tomorrow."

Top seed Nishikori will open his campaign against Frenchman Benoit Paire, but is not in action on Monday.

Raiders coach sees 'a lot of potential' in trading draft picks



CALIFOR-**NIA** — The Oakland Raiders have several needs to address this

offseason. And with three first-round picks-fourth, 24th, and 27th—in this year's draft, Oakland will have the opportunity to fill those holes in its roster. But the Raiders may not have all three picks by draft night. Why? Well, head coach Jon Gruden sees "a lot of potential" trading those picks, according to J.T. the Brick on "The Game Plan" podcast, via nfl.com.

Oakland received the 24th and 27th picks through trades with the Chicago Bears and Dallas Cowboys. Gruden's excited about possibly trading picks, which, of course, shouldn't surprise anyone.

"I think that's one of the things I'm really excited about" Gruden said. "[New Raiders general manager] Mike Mayock what he brings to the table, he's got great resources around the NFL. He's been in every building, he's on a first-name basis; everybody knows Mike. And I think he's gonna be on the phones quite a bit, not only with those two picks you talked about, who knows, we may move up with the No. 4 pick, we may move back with that pick. We'll see

For right now, though, the Raiders are studying free agents, especially young players whose contracts expire in 2019.

how it all unfolds."

"That's what we've been doing the last 10 days. We have been doing nothing but studying free agents, guys that's contracts are up,' Gruden said. "Obviously we're not looking to add players that are at the end of

their career. We're looking for blossoming young players. Those guys usually don't get to free agency. So the pickings are slim, for everybody, but there are a couple diamonds in the rough. We'll see where the market goes."

Gruden says the team doesn't want to spend all its money on free agents; instead, the Raiders want to save money in case a trade develops in the draft. Gruden says they don't know which players they want to select.

What should the Raiders do with their picks?

Indeed, the Raiders have several needs. After all, this team finished with a 4-12 record after shipping linebacker Khalil Mack to the Bears and receiver Amari Cooper to the Cowboys. This team is devoid of talent on both sides of the ball.

Trophy winner Kyler Murray at No. 1 or stay put. Oakland has Derek Carr, so

The Raiders have two options:

trade up to select Heisman

why would the Raiders trade up for a quarterback? Carr has been mediocre at best over the past two seasons-throwing for 41 touchdowns and 23 interceptions. He hasn't lived up to that massive \$125 million contract he signed in 2017, so trading him to a quarterbackneedy team would help the Raiders completely usher in a

Cutting Carr before June 1 would be a terrible idea for Oakland because he would account for \$27.4 million in dead money, according to OverTheCap.com. The Raiders need a player who could help galvanize and breathe life into a franchise that only recorded one winning season over the past 16 seasons.

KNIGHTS

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drain, as Keith Sablan saved the day for the Knights. The MCS 1 player finished with a gamehigh 19 points, 9 of them came from the 3-point area. Hudkins, Jason Sablan, and Nishimura had 16, 9, and 7 markers, respectively for the Geckos.

Before enjoying a 12-point advantage at the break and hanging on to the driver's seat in the fourth quarter, MCS 1 had a close battle with SIS in the first half.

At the end of the opening quarter, the Knights clung to a 9-8 lead, as Hudkins kept their foes at bay after showcasing his polished post-up game. Hudkins scored 6 points in the first period, while Keith Sablan, had 5 for MCS and a highlight play—an alley-oop pass to Michael Johnson.

While the opening canto featured a back-and-forth slugfest, the Knights began to gain distance in the second. Team captain Angelo Factor, who finished the game with 10 points, and Keith Sablan spearheaded a 10-4 scoring exchange to push their lead to 7 at halftime, 24-17.

After the intermission, Johnson clashed with Hudkins in the paint and earned 6 points in the third quarter. The Knights center's fearlessness and defensive instincts down low powered his team to a double-digit advantage going into the final frame.



ROBY N. PAMINTUAN

Mt. Carmel School's Chioni Dela Cruz drives against two Saipan International School defenders during their game in the CCOPSA caging yesterday at the Geckos court in As Lito.

os, the Knights improved their record to 3-1 and remained in a logjam for second place with Kagman High School, while the Geckos absorbed their second loss in three games.

The Ayuyus willed their way past Agape Christian School 1 in the latter's home court in Gualo Rai, 74-58, behind Dean Blake, Henry Aguon, and Mustafa Augustino.

Blake finished with a teamhigh 14 points, while Aguon and Augustino contributed 13 markers apiece. Torchbearers

other explosive game with his 26 points, but failed to get help from his teammates.

Kagman and MCS 1 are behind Saipan Southern High School, which remained on top with its 3-0 record following a 104-13 demolition of Agape 2.

In other results, Grace Christian Academy outgunned the visiting MCS 2 squad, 56-39.

With the victory, the Eagles now hold a 2-2 record and is tied with ACS 1 for third place. Meanwhile, three games

After leapfrogging the Geck-captain Kobe Yang had an-will be played tomorrow in different venues. Agape 1 and 2 will collide at their court in Gualo Rai, while GCA will take on SIS at the Eagles turf. Over at the Koblerville Gymnasium, the unbeaten SSHS will play against MCS 1.

> MCS 51-Sablan 19, Johnson 10, Factor 10, Dela Cruz 8, Evangelista 2, Tabora 2.

SIS 44—Hudkins 16, Jason Sablan 9, Nishimura 7, J.P. Sablan 6, Guo 2, Kin 2, Muna 2.

Scoring by quarters: 9-8, 24-17, 41-29, 51-44

13. Swimming gained five medals, while canoe and baseball contributed two and one, respectively.

Except for baseball, the sports federations mentioned above will also send athletes/ teams to the Pacific Games, along with golf, tennis, and rugby 7's. Basketball (3x3) and volleyball have yet to fully commit to the Games that will be held from July 7 to 20.

XENAVEE

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ored to be inducted into the Hall of Fame," said Torwal's father, Victor Pangelinan, who received the award on behalf of her daughter.

Torwal, who turned 35 just last year, still owns more than 20 CNMI age group and nine national records plus three Guam national marks. She represented the Commonwealth in several regional and international events, starting in the late 1990s, making her one of the CNMI athletes with the most medals won in offisland tournaments. The swimmer was so dominant that in one competition (1998 Micronesian Games in Palau) she won 12 gold medals and then the following Micro Games (2002 in Pohnpei), she collected 10 golds and was named Best Female Athlete.

"I've never thought that Xenavee could make it really good in swimming because when I brought her to the pool, I just wanted her to learn how to swim for first aid and survival. We are surrounded by water and many people die because of drowning," Pangelinan recalled.

"Then I was approached by Jeane and Bill Sakovich (Saipan Swim Club founders and the first inductees into the CNMI Hall of Fame) and asked if I wanted to enroll Xenavee to a formal class. That's where it all started and I thanked them for helping Xenavee become a successful swimmer. The time and effort they spent training Xenavee were very much appreciated by our family, and of course by Xenavee. We would also like to thank Bobby Winkfield for doing the same thing for Xenavee. Our deep gratitude goes to these great coaches," Pangelinan said.

Torwal could not make it to last week's awards ceremony, as she is now based in Boise, Idaho, according to Pangelinan. He added that her daughter remains active, going to the gym regularly, while her two sons are also involved in sports.

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LeBron questions Lakers' sense of urgency

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Knights top Geckos for third win

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN pamintuanroby@gmail.com . CORRESPONDENT

ount Carmel School 1 withstood Saipan International School's fourth-quarter rally en route to a 51-44 win in the boys division game in the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Varsity Basketball League yesterday at the Geckos' court in As Lito.

Keith Sablan delivered timely baskets for the Knights to halt the Geckos' run, as he scored 8

of his 10 points in the fourth quarter. The final canto started with MCS 1 ahead by double figures 41-29, before A.J. Hudkins, Jason Sablan,

and Kuu Nishimura joined forces in trying to bring SIS back into the game. The trio combined for 14

points in the fourth frame to cut the deficit to single digit, but their efforts went down the

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Victor Pangelinan is flanked by Northern Marianas Sports Association president Michael White, left, and NMSA board member Jeff Race after receiving the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame award for his daughter, Xenavee Pangelinan Torwal, during the 2018 NMSA/Tan Siu Lin Foundation Annual Sports Banquet last week at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Xenavee inducted into Hall of Fame

roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com

Had it not been for the age requirement, the Commonwealth's best female swimmer Xenavee Pangelinan Torwal had long been inducted into the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame.

Torwal finally got the well-deserved recognition when she joined the elite list last Wednesday during the 2018 Northern Marianas Sports Association/ Tan Siu Lin Foundation Annual Sports Banquet at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. To get

inducted into the select group, one has to be at least 35 years old besides making significant contributions to his/her sport.

"It's great that Xenavee is finally recognized for her outstanding performance in swimming. She did her best every time she raced and represented the CNMI. I am sure she is definitely hon-

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Mt. Carmel School 1's Minsu Park, left, defends against Saipan International School's A.J. Hudkins underneath the basket during their game in the CCOPSA caging yesterday at the Geckos court in As Lito.

gger reward awaits Pacific Games medalists

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com REPORTER



Consider bigger monetary incentives as an added motivation for athletes competing EXPACIFICGAMES the 2019 Pacific

Games in Samoa:

Northern Marianas Sports Association president Michael White, during the 2018 NMSA/Tan Siu Lin Foundation Annual Sports Banquet held last week at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, said that bigger rewards will be given to athletes/teams that will bring home medals from this summer's competition in Apia.

"We would like to congratulate all the medal winners in last year's Micro Games in Yap," said White, who led the awarding of \$150, \$100, and \$75 to the gold, silver, and bronze medalists, respectively. "We would like to recognize your

efforts through these incentives and NMSA assures you that bigger rewards will be given to athletes/teams that will win

medals in the Pacific Games this year," the NMSA head said. White's announcement drew loud cheers from those present at the awards ceremony. Teams/athletes who competed

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The CNMI paddlers pose for a photo after getting their monetary incentives for winning medals in the 2018 Micronesian Games during last week's Northern Marianas Sports Association/Tan Siu Lin Foundation Annual Sports Banquet at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.